

SERBO-CROATIAN
GRAMMAR *and*
READER

by Oton Grozdić

***former teacher in Serbo-Croatian
in the University of London***

HAFNER PUBLISHING COMPANY

SERBO-CROATIAN is a language noted for its beauty. From a philological point of view, because of its carefully preserved grammatical structure it is an invaluable key to the systematic study of the whole Slavonic group. Yet there are few scholarly introductions to Serbo-Croatian easily available in English. John Dyneley Prince's *Practical Grammar of the Serbo-Croatian Language*—which the present volume replaces in the Hafner list—is an old work, now somewhat out of date and difficult for the beginner to use. Dr. Grozdić's book, therefore, fills an important gap. The exposition is very lucid, comprehensive but not over-weighted with detail, while at the same time all essentials are covered and there is enough practice material to give the learner a firm basis on which to build. It will be welcomed by all teachers and language departments who include Serbo-Croatian in their curricula, and by all students of languages who, for whatever reason, wish to add Serbo-Croatian to their linguistic horizon.

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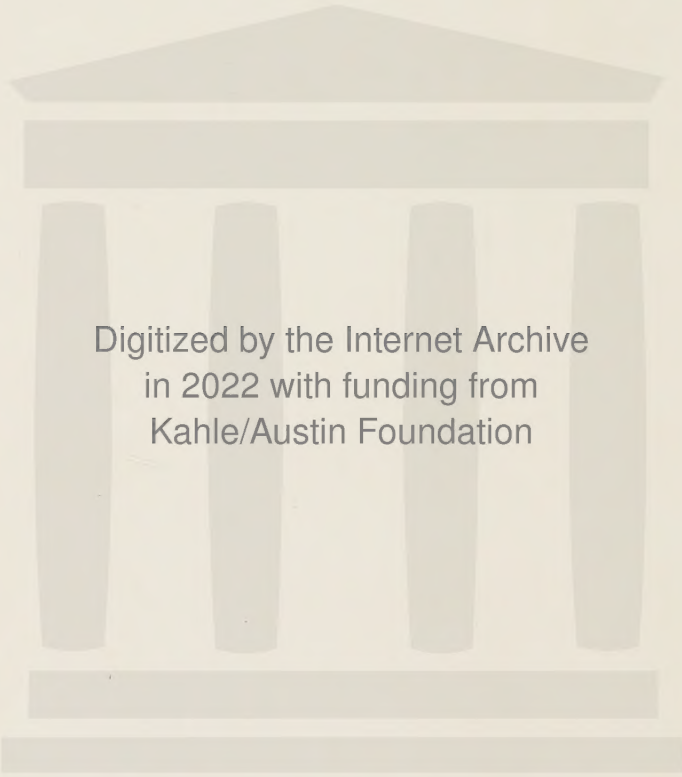
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by

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*Former Teacher in Serbo-Croatian
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PREFACE

Several languages are spoken by the population of Yugoslavia. The Slovenes in the north-west speak Slovenian (or Slovene). The Macedonians in the south-east of Yugoslavia speak Macedonian—a language revived after centuries of repression and oblivion. The Montenegrins (south-west) speak a version of Serbian with certain Croatian features. Serbo-Croatian, the main Yugoslav language, is spoken by the Serbs and the Croats, representing the great majority of Yugoslavia's population. Incidentally, just to avoid local susceptibilities, you will be well advised to call the language Serbo-Croatian (*srpskohrvatski*) when talking to Serbs and Croato-Serbian (*hrvatskosrpski*) when talking to Croats.

Being the language of the majority of the country, Serbo-Croatian is also spoken—or at least understood—as their second language by almost everybody in Yugoslavia.

The object of our study here will be the Serbo-Croatian language, also called Serbo-Croat. Once mastered, it should give you a good understanding of the other Yugoslav languages and should also serve as a useful introduction to other Slav (or Slavonic) languages such as Russian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian.

* * *

I should like to register my deep gratitude to Mrs. Margaret Flower, B.A., Part-time tutor in the Extra-Mural Department of the University of London for her generous help and advice.

GENERAL NOTES

When you begin to study the Serbo-Croat—or Serbo-Croatian—language, you may feel that a number of difficulties are facing you. But you will be pleased to find that there are two redeeming features.

First, there is no definite article in the language. There simply is no Serbo-Croat equivalent for the word ‘the’. Strictly speaking, there is no indefinite article in Serbo-Croat either, although we shall have to qualify this statement later on. As a consequence of this, the word ‘soba’ can be translated either as ‘the room’, or as ‘a room’, or simply as ‘room’. You will see after a time that you will always be able to tell without any difficulty which of these three versions is meant in any given case.

The other, even more welcome, fact is that—once you have learned how to pronounce correctly the individual letters of the Serbo-Croat alphabet—you will never have to worry about how to pronounce any word. This is due to the fact that Serbo-Croat is a fully phonetic language. And this again is the consequence of a reform carried out in the language about the year 1815 by Vuk Stefan Karadžić, father of modern Serbo-Croatian philology. He introduced into the language a wonderfully simple yet extremely valuable rule: “Speak as you write and write as you speak!” Or to put it in another way: “Pronounce words exactly as you spell them and spell words just as you pronounce them!”

There is in fact no Serbo-Croat equivalent for the English words: “to spell” or “spelling”. If the spelling of your name happens to look complicated or the pronunciation of it seems puzzling to a Yugoslav, he will not ask you how you “spell” it, but how you “write” it.

The Serbo-Croat system of spelling is something like George Bernard Shaw’s idea about simplifying English spelling. With the great difference, of course, that the idea has prevailed in Serbo-Croat in theory and practice for over 150 years. If you think of the trouble an English child has to go through before mastering the spelling intricacies of his own mother tongue, you will realize how much easier it is for a Yugoslav child to become literate. And this feature of the language, of course, helps very considerably any non-Yugoslav studying the language.

There still remains the fact that letters of the alphabet are pronounced rather differently in Serbo-Croat from the way they are pronounced in English. The Serbo-Croat pronunciation of individual letters is basically the same as their pronunciation in most European languages, say in German or Italian, and it is quite similar to that in French.

Before going any further, let us now discuss the problem of the script. You can write Serbo-Croatian in Latin characters (i.e. the same as the ones you use in English), or in letters of the Cyrillic script. The latter is almost identical with the script used for Russian and Bulgarian and it is normally used by Serbs and Montenegrins although they are almost without exception familiar with the Latin script as well. The Croats on the other hand use the Latin alphabet. The Cyrillic script was devised by two Greek monks Cyril and Methodius in the 9th century, as they were preparing themselves to carry Christianity to various Slavonic peoples. The script is a combination of characters of the Latin and Greek alphabets, and presents no serious problem although it may present certain difficulties for a time. It is not absolutely essential for you to learn to *write* the Cyrillic script, but you would certainly be well advised to learn to *read* it, or else you will not be able to read street names or newspapers and periodicals in Belgrade, or, indeed, most books published in Serbia. And just one more remark on this subject: whether you write Serbo-Croatian in Latin or Cyrillic, there is absolutely no difference in the pronunciation of the written text.

In the alphabet below we give the nearest equivalent to the correct pronunciation of individual letters. Even if you find mastering this thoroughly a somewhat arduous task, don't forget that once you have learnt how to pronounce individual letters you will never have to ask either how to pronounce a word you see in writing or how to spell a word you hear spoken. Just keep to the golden rule: "Pronounce as you spell and spell as you pronounce!"

THE ALPHABET

Latin		Cyrillic		Equivalent Pronunciation in English	
		Print	Script		
A	a	А	а	<i>A a</i>	a in 'father' or 'large'. Danas—today.
B	b	Б	б	<i>B б</i>	b in 'bread'. Brat—brother.
C	c	Ц	ц	<i>C ц</i>	ts in 'bits'. Cena—price.
Č	č	Ч	ч	<i>Ч ч</i>	ch in 'chin'. Čovek—man.
Ć	ć	Ћ	ћ	<i>Ћ ћ</i>	tu in 'picture'. Ćilim—rug, carpet.
D	d	Д	д	<i>D д</i>	d in 'day'. Dan—day.
Dž	dž	Џ	џ	<i>Dž dž</i>	g in 'gin'. Džep—pocket.
Đ	đ	Ђ	ђ	<i>Ђ ђ</i>	du in 'procedure'. Đak—schoolboy.
E	e	Е	е	<i>E e</i>	e in 'bet' or 'where'. Vetar—wind. Med—honey.
F	f	Ф	ф	<i>F ф</i>	f in 'fine'. Fino—fine.
G	g	Г	г	<i>G г</i>	g in 'good'. Go'vorim—I speak.
H	h	Х	х	<i>H х</i>	h in 'hill'. Hajde!—come!
I	i	И	и	<i>I и</i>	i in 'bit' or 'machine'. Ni'kada—never. Mi'sao—thought.
J	j	Ј	ј	<i>J ј</i>	consonantal 'y' in 'yet'. Jak—strong.
K	k	К	к	<i>K к</i>	k in 'king'. Kuća—house.
L	l	Л	л	<i>L л</i>	l in 'love'. Lepo—nicely.
Lj	lj	Љ	љ	<i>Lj љ</i>	lli in 'million'. Ljubav—love.
M	m	М	м	<i>M м</i>	m in 'mother'. Majka—mother.
N	n	Н	н	<i>N н</i>	n in 'never'. Nikada—never.
Nj	nj	Њ	њ	<i>Nj њ</i>	ni in 'onion'. Njiva—field.
O	o	О	о	<i>O o</i>	'straight' o (not 'rounded' o) in 'not' or 'nobody'. Lopov—thief; mokar—wet.
P	p	П	п	<i>P п</i>	p in 'pet'. Pas—dog.
R	r	Р	р	<i>R р</i>	r as pronounced by the Scots. Ruka— hand, arm.
S	s	С	с	<i>S с</i>	s in 'sister'. Sestra—sister.
Š	š	Ш	ш	<i>Š ш</i>	sh in 'shin'. Šećer—sugar.
T	t	Т	т	<i>T т</i>	t in 'table'. Tačka—full stop.
U	u	У	у	<i>U у</i>	oo in 'room' or u in 'butcher'. Ruka— hand, arm. Kuća—house.
V	v	В	в	<i>V в</i>	v in 'victory'. Vuna—wool.
Z	z	З	з	<i>Z з</i>	z in 'zeal'. Zašto—why.
Ž	ž	Ж	ж	<i>Ž ж</i>	su in 'pleasure'. Žena—woman, wife.

Notes

1. Do not try too hard, at this stage, to make a clear distinction in your pronunciation of 'č' and 'ć'. The same goes for the pronunciation of 'd' and 'dž'. Native Yugoslavs of certain areas of Yugoslavia do not—and often cannot—make the distinction in their pronunciation. It is on the other hand important that you should be able to make the distinction when *writing* in Serbo-Croat. So as you learn a word try to learn it with its proper 'č' or 'ć'.
2. The letter 'lj' is one sound—it is not two separate sounds 'l' and 'j'. It is pronounced almost exactly as the group 'lli' in the word 'brilliant' is pronounced in English—and you spell this word in Serbo-Croat as 'briljantan'. The letter 'lj' is actually written as one character in Cyrillic: љ.
3. The same applies to 'nj', pronounced very similarly as the English word 'onion', i.e. as "un'yon"—and certainly not as "unee'yon".
4. There are no mute letters in Serbo-Croatian. If a sound in a word doesn't have to be voiced, you simply drop it in your spelling—otherwise the language would cease to be phonetic. The word 'magazine' for instance, drops its final 'e' since it is mute; this means that it is spelt as 'magazin'.
5. There are no double consonants in Serbo-Croatian. If a foreign word containing double consonants is adopted, it will be spelt in Serbo-Croat with one consonant only. Oppression becomes 'opresija', million is 'milion'; and difference is 'diferencija'.
6. There are no diphthongs either. A foreign word containing a diphthong changes it into the vowel nearest to the Serbo-Croatian pronunciation. Daemon becomes 'demon'; haemorrhage is 'hemoragija' and aesthetics is spelt as 'estetika'. But, of course, a word like aerodrome is both spelt and pronounced 'aerodrom' (with the 'a' and the 'e' as separate sounds), although you will also hear the word pronounced simply as 'erodrom'.
7. One of the basic rules on pronunciation is that every letter of the alphabet is pronounced in one and the same way whether it stands on its own (there are a few such words in the language), or whether it stands in a word consisting of several letters.
8. All the above rules apply just as much to foreign proper names—of persons or places—as to any other word. The result will partly depend on how far a Yugoslav is acquainted with the language

the word is borrowed from; or on how he imagines such words should be pronounced, say, in English. Manchester is pronounced and spelled by a Yugoslav as Mančester or Menčester; Birmingham as Bermingam, Bermingen, or even as Birmingham. And Worthing (either the one on the Sussex coast or the other of Oscar Wilde's fame) may be pronounced—and spelt—as Verzing, Verting, Vorting, Vorzing, Vorsing, and a few other variants. All this applies invariably to the Cyrillic script, while practice varies in the case of Latin script.

ADOPTION OF FOREIGN WORDS

Foreign words are freely adopted into the Serbo-Croatian language and—for a variety of reasons—the practice has been gaining momentum of late. Cultural, religious, political, and economic links were followed by the adoption of words from other nations or languages. Such developments alternated with periods of 'purification' leading to some ludicrous inventions of words whose Slavonic justification or form were often more than dubious.

The source languages of foreign words over the ages have been Greek, Latin, Russian, German, French, Italian, and again Russian. But once a foreign word has been adopted, it is treated as if it were a genuinely Serbo-Croatian word. It is transliterated and spelled, declined or conjugated—as the case may require—in the same way as genuine Serbo-Croat words of the same category are.

Many English words, especially those referring to the seafaring and sporting worlds, are today part of the Serbo-Croatian language. Yugoslav sportsmen and fans speak—and sports writers report—happily of a 'gol' (*goal*), an 'aut' (*out*), or even a 'korna' (*corner*); or, indeed, of 'fudbal' meaning football, just as they count, say, 'serti-forti' (*thirty-forty*) in 'tenis' (*tennis*).

If you write in Latin characters—as Croats do—you will normally keep foreign proper names in their original form. You will, however, decline them as you decline any Serbo-Croatian word of their group. Thus: Shakespeare, Shakespearea, Shakespeareu, etc. You can also use a hyphen and make it: Shakespeare-a, Shakespeare-u, etc.

But when using the Cyrillic script, a Yugoslav will transliterate Shakespeare into sounds nearest to what he imagines to be the right English pronunciation of the name. He will therefore spell it Šekspir and go on declining it: Šekspira, Šekspiru, etc.

As it happens, the pronunciation or spelling of Shakespeare will not suffer unduly. But if it comes to spelling or pronouncing in Serbo-Croatian of names such as Galsworthy, the results may be almost anything: Golsvorti, Golsverti, Golsverzi, Galsverzi, Galsvors, and probably a few more variations.

ASSIMILATION OF CONSONANTS

The following consonants belong to one of two groups:

Voiced:	b	g	d	đ	ž	z	dž	
Voiceless:	p	k	t	ć	š	s	č	and f, h, c

The first seven consonants belonging to the two groups respectively form seven distinct 'pairs', while the remaining three voiceless consonants have no voiced pairs.

Whenever two consonants follow each other in a word, they have to belong to the same group. If they happen to belong to different groups, the first consonant has to be 'assimilated', i.e. it has to be replaced by its pair from the group to which the second consonant belongs.

This happens to nouns in the course of their declension. The genitive singular of *na'predak* (*progress*) should be *na'predka*. But since 'd' is voiced and 'k' voiceless, the 'd' has to be replaced by 't' and the word becomes *'napretka*'. Or when the noun *'beg*' (*run*) is turned into *'begstvo*' (*escape*), another noun, the voiced 'g' is replaced by the voiceless 'k' and the noun becomes *'bekstvo*'. The feminine of the adjective *nizak* (*low*) becomes *'niska*'. The verb *podpi'sati* (*to sign*) becomes *'potpi'sati*' and *'predpo'staviti*' (*to suppose*) becomes *'pretpo'staviti*'.

There is one important exception from this rule: the consonant 'd' does not change to 't' if followed by the consonants 's' or 'š'. *Pred'sednik* (*president*) does not change to *pret'sednik*, nor does *od'čitati* (*to read off*) become *ot'čitati*.

Now follows a reading exercise, first in Latin and then in Cyrillic script. Read it over several times—aloud if possible—and keep on reading it again even when you have reached a more advanced stage in your studies. You should practice especially reading the Cyrillic passage, since there will be no more reading material in Cyrillic in the book. The reading exercise is followed by an English translation

and a list of words as an introduction to the building up of a vocabulary.

You will notice that in our later sentences and other exercises we use a rather limited number of words. This is so because we consider it our primary task here to deal with problems of grammar. It should be comparatively easy for you to build up your vocabulary later on by reading or conversation, with the help of a good dictionary.

READING EXERCISE

LATIN SCRIPT

Moj brat. Gospo'din Po'pović. Tvoj otac. Ova kuća. Majka i sestra. Naše selo. Čujte ljudi! Dođite ovamo! Zašto vičeš? Dečak trči. Deča'ci trče. Kuda ideš? Idem kući. Zašto ne ideš u školu? Muž i žena. Naše no'vine. Đaci su u školi. Sat je u džepu. Nje'gova sestra. Idem sa njim. Zašto ne ideš sa mnom? Lepo polje. Mlada de'vojka. Ja sam Englez. Ti si Jugoslo'ven. Gospo'din i gos'pođa. Brat i sestra. Beo'grad i Zagreb. Ljublja'na i Dubrov'nik. Jad'ransko more. Moja po'rodica. Pijem mleko. Zašto piješ vino? Žao mi je, gos'pođice! Kako se zoveš? Zovem se Mirko. A Ti? Ja sam Marko.

CYRILLIC SCRIPT

(Same text as the foregoing in Latin script)

Мој брат. Госпо'дин По'повић. Твој отац. Ова кућа. Мајка и сестра. Наше село. Чујте људи! Дођите овамо! Зашто вичеш. Дечак трчи. Деча'ци трче. Куда идеш? Идем кући. Зашто не идеш у школу? Муж и жена. Наше но'вине. Ђаци су у школи. Сат је у џепу. Ње'гова сестра. Идем са њим. Зашто не идеш са мном? Лепо поље. Млада де'војка. Ја сам Енглез. Ти си Југосло'вен. Госпо'дин и гос'пођа. Брат и сестра. Бео'град и Загреб. Љубља'на и Дубров'ник. Јад'ранско море. Моја по'родаца. Пијем млеко. Зашто пијеш вино? Жао ми је, гос'пођице! Како се зовеш? Зовем се Мирко. А Ти? Ја сам Марко.

TRANSLATION

My brother. Mr. Popović. Your father. This house. Mother and sister. Our village. Listen, people! Come here! Why is he shouting? The boy is running. The boys are running. Where are you going to? I am going home. Why don't you go to school? Husband and wife. Our newspaper. The pupils are at school. The watch is in the pocket.

His sister. I am going with him. Why don't you go with me? A beautiful field. A young girl. I am an Englishman. You are a Yugoslav. A gentleman and a lady. Brother and sister. Belgrade and Zagreb. Ljubljana and Dubrovnik. The Adriatic sea. My family. I drink milk. Why do you drink wine? I am sorry, miss. What's your name? My name is Mirko. And yours? Mine is Marko.

VOCABULARY

moj my, mine (<i>masc.</i>)	đaci schoolboys
brat brother	u in, at, into
tvoj your, yours (<i>masc.</i>)	škola school
ova this (<i>fem.</i>)	sat watch or clock; hour
kuća house	džep pocket
sestra sister	pijem I drink
i and	nje'gova his (<i>fem.</i>)
majka mother	idem I go
dečak boy	sa with
deča'ci boys	njim him
trči he runs	lepo beautiful (<i>neut.</i>)
trče they run	vino wine
no'vine newspaper	žao mi je I am sorry
naše our, ours (<i>neut.</i>)	polje field
selo village	mlada young (<i>fem.</i>)
čujte! listen!	de'vojka girl
ljudi people, men	ja sam I am
dodi! come!	ti si you are
ovamo here, hither	Englez Englishman
zašto? why?	Jugoslo'ven Yugoslav
viče he shouts	gospo'din gentleman, Mr.
kuda? where to?	gos'pođa lady, Mrs.
ideš you go	gos'podica young lady, Miss
muž husband	zovem se my name is
žena woman, wife	kako? how?

Let us now take a few of the above words containing, in our version, the letter 'e', such as: dečak, deča'ci; lepo; de'vojka; mleko. These words are given here in the form in which they are spelt and pronounced by the Serbs. Croats spell and pronounce these words slightly differently: dječak, dječa'ci; lije'po; dje'vojka; mlije'ko. This difference in spelling and pronunciation shows the main difference

between the Serbian and Croatian versions of the Serbo-Croatian language. The Serbian version is called “e'kavski”, the Croatian “ije'kavski”. The difference stems from the fact that the so-called ‘jat’ sound of the Old Slavonic language (from which the present Serbo-Croatian had developed) has become ‘e’ in Serbian and either ‘je’ or ‘ije’ in Croatian. Hence the appellation “e'kavski” and “ije'kavski” respectively for the two ‘dialects’. There also exists a third ‘dialect’—“i'kavski”—with the spelling and pronunciation of the above given examples changing to di'čak, diča'ci; lipo; di'vojka; mliko. This “i'kavski” dialect is almost extinct and is only used in colloquial language in Split (Dalmatia) and its surroundings, and in some of the nearby Adriatic islands.

Roughly coinciding with these dialects there is also the difference between the equivalent of the interrogative particle ‘what?’: ‘što?’, ‘kaj?’, and ‘ča?’. The corresponding sub-dialects are therefore called “što'kavski”, “kaj'kavski”, and “ča'kavski”. The “ča'kavski” is again almost extinct and survives only where the “i'kavski” dialect does. The “kaj'kavski” sub-dialect on the other hand still survives in parts of Croatia, including Zagreb town, but it is used colloquially only. Even there it is the “što'kavski” sub-dialect that is taught in schools and used in the printing of books and newspapers, in official and business correspondence as well as in private correspondence. The “kaj'kavski” is kept for informal talk and conversation only and will hardly ever be used even by Croats in conversation with a non-Yugoslav.

The “što'kavski” being the sub-dialect normally used both in Serbia and Croatia, it will also be the one used in this book. And the dialect used here will be the “e'kavski”, i.e. the Serbian version of Serbo-Croatian. You should not experience the slightest difficulty in using it even when you happen to be talking to Croats. They may just be slightly disappointed and ask you why you hadn't rather learnt ‘their’ language. Well—put the blame on the present author!

STRESS AND INTONATION

There is one rule on the right place of the stress accent that applies to all words, without any exception—and it is a negative rule: never stress the last syllable of a word. The rule also applies to foreign words adopted into the Serbo-Croatian language, even to foreign names.

It is immediately obvious that, as a consequence of this rule, the stress in a disyllabic word will be on the first and never on the last syllable.

Things grow much more complicated, however, when we come to the right place of the stress accent in words of three or more syllables. A variety of rules applies here with, unfortunately, numerous exceptions. To make matters even worse, both theory and practice in this field show slight variations. The name of the country—Yugoslavia—used to be pronounced with the stress on the third syllable “Jugosla'vija”. It is now pronounced almost invariably as “Jugo'slavija”. The name of Yugoslavia's capital town Belgrade is pronounced by its inhabitants and generally by Serbs as “Beo'grad”, while most of the other Yugoslavs pronounce it as “Be'ograd”. There are not many words that show such marked differences in stress accent, but there certainly are some.

There is a further complication: in the course of a declension or conjugation the stress often ‘jumps’ from one syllable to another. And the rules about it are again rather cumbersome.

We find it, therefore, best and simplest to mark the stress accent of polysyllabic words with the sign ' placed at the end of the stressed syllable—a method nowadays generally applied in most language books.

But you must not expect to find any signs, marks, or indications as to stress or accent in a normal Yugoslav book, periodical, or newspaper meant for Yugoslav readers.

You will, on the other hand, find proper stress accents in grammars or certain dictionaries, only they will be more complicated. They will normally take the following form:

- ' over a long, rising vowel.
- ˘ or ^ over a long, falling vowel.
- ` over a short, rising vowel.
- ˝ over a short, falling vowel.

It can be said that the difference between the rising and falling accent for *short* vowels is getting lost very rapidly—at least as far as the non-specialist is concerned. There is not much point in your trying to observe the difference between the two—even the Yugoslavs hardly ever do, nor are they always able to distinguish between the two, even if they try. The difference between the rising and falling *long* vowels, on the other hand, is observable quite distinctly. The

word 'mléko' (*milk*) for instance carries a long rising accent, while the word 'mājka' (*mother*) carries a long falling one.

In respect of accents we consider that you should try and observe the stress as indicated in this book. At the beginning, it is important that you should lay the stress where it belongs—and as marked here in the book. You can later on try and introduce into your own pronunciation the difference between rising and falling long stress, but it would probably be too ambitious to try to do it at this stage.

Accents in Serbo-Croatian are always on vowels, never on consonants. The fact that 'r' carries an accent in certain cases is no contradiction of the rule, since the stress is on 'r' only when it is considered as a vowel. This happens in the following cases:

1. When a word begins with an 'r' followed by a consonant, such as: "r'da" (*rust*), or "r'vač" (*wrestler*).
2. When 'r' is both preceded and followed by a consonant, as for instance in words like "Hr'vat" (*a Croat*), "pr'kos" (*spite*).

DECLENSIONS AND GENDERS

Serbo-Croatian is an 'inflected' language, which means that words change their endings in the course of their declension. Such words are, consequently, called 'declinable'. To this category belong: nouns, adjectives, pronouns and a few numerals. Adverbs, prepositions, interjections, and most numerals, on the other hand, are not declined; they are indeclinable.

With hardly any exceptions, the declension affects only the ending of the word declined. And since nouns are used without articles, they are also declined without them.

There are different declensions for nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and some numerals of various genders. So, before proceeding to the declension itself, we must always first determine the gender of the word we wish to decline. And we shall confine ourselves for the moment to the gender of nouns only.

GENDER OF NOUNS

There are three genders in the Serbo-Croatian language: masculine (*m*), feminine (*f*), and neuter (*n*). In the case of human beings or animals, their gender is determined by their sex. (But see below about neuter nouns.)

Čovek (*man*), brat (*brother*), otac (*father*), pri'jatelj (*friend—male*), pas (*dog*), bik (*bull*) are all male human beings or animals. Their gender is therefore masculine and it is called 'natural gender'. The natural gender also applies to female human beings or animals: žena (*woman, wife*), de'vojka (*girl*), majka (*mother*), sestra (*sister*), mačka (*cat*), krava (*cow*), etc.

By extension, nouns ending in 'e' and denoting young human beings or animals are considered and treated as neuter—as if their sex were not quite determined yet. Here are a few examples: momče (*young lad*), de'vojčje (*young girl*), tele (*calf*), prase (*piglet*), ždrebe (*foal*).

There are a few nouns denoting positions, jobs or professions with male and female versions; in such cases there are also nouns with two versions, of masculine and feminine genders. Kralj (*king*) and kra'ljica (*queen*), u'čitelj (*schoolmaster*) and učite'ljica (*school-mistress*), pri'jatelj (*male friend*) and prijate'ljica (*female friend*), glumac (*actor*) and glu'mica (*actress*).

Whenever the gender cannot be determined naturally, by sex, it is determined by rules of grammar and is therefore called 'grammatical gender'.

Here follow a few general rules on the grammatical gender of nouns that will be useful for our purposes at the moment. We shall have to go deeper into the matter when we turn to the declension of individual categories of nouns and indeed of other words.

1. Most nouns ending in a consonant are masculine. Here are a few examples. Zidar (*mason*), tesar (*carpenter*), vojn timer (*soldier*), mi'nistar (*minister*), doktor (*doctor*), čekič (*hammer*), zid (*wall*), vetar (*wind*), sat (*watch or clock; hour*), val (*wave*), oblak (*cloud*).

There is one important exception from this rule. *Abstract* nouns with an ending in 'st' are feminine—and it so happens that there are a great number of such nouns. Examples: čast (*honour*), vlast (*power, authority*), bolest (*illness*), savest (*conscience*), zavist (*envy*). The rule, of course, does not apply to *concrete* nouns ending in 'st', for they are masculine, according to the above general rule. Most (*bridge*), krst (*cross*), prst (*finger*), Trst (*Trieste*).

2. Nouns ending in 'a' are, almost without exception, feminine. Examples: Ptica (*bird*), slika (*picture*), ravni'ca (*valley*), sta'nica (*station*), u'lica (*street*), kuća (*house*).

3. All nouns ending in 'o' (but see rule under 4) and most nouns ending in 'e' are neuter. Selo (*village*), telo (*body*), polje (*field*), tele (*calf*), je'zero (*lake*), krilo (*wing*), pleme (*tribe*).

4. There are a few nouns ending in 'o' (in Serbian) but in 'ol' in Croatian. Examples: vo (*ox*), sto (*table*), soko (*falcon*). In Croatian they are spelt as: vol, stol, sokol. These nouns are masculine and are declined as such. And there are also some such nouns that are feminine, as so (*salt*) or mi'sao (*thought*). Details of how these should be dealt with will be given later under the appropriate declension.

NOTES ON DECLENSION

There are seven cases in the Serbo-Croatian declension, called: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, vocative, instrumental, and locative. It is important to observe this order of the cases even though it differs from the order of cases you may have learned in Latin. Yugoslavs, at times, speak of 'the first, the second case' instead of calling them 'nominative, genitive', etc. In order to avoid confusion, it will therefore be better to learn the cases in the order given here.

Now follow a few hints about the meaning and uses of individual cases. We confine ourselves for the present to the main rules. More will be said in this respect later on, especially when we discuss cases as governed by individual prepositions. (See page 106.)

Nominative (the first case) is also called the 'subjective' case, because the subject of a sentence or clause is always in the nominative '**Brat** do'lazi' (*Brother is coming*); '**Pas** trči' (*The dog is running*); '**Kuća** je stara' (*The house is old*); '**Konj** je na u'lici' (*The horse is in the street*). The words in bold type are in the nominative case.

Genitive (the second case) usually denotes something belonging to—or concerning—a person or an object; or the origin of a person or object. It can often be translated with the Saxon genitive. 'Muž moje sestre' (*My sister's husband*); 'Kuća našeg su'seda' (*Our neighbour's house*); 'Maši'na **en'gleske pro'izvodnje**' (*A machine of English make*); 'Čovek **ruskog porek'la**' (*A man of Russian origin*). The words in bold type are in the genitive case.

Dative (the third case) shows the direction of movement or action—towards a person or object. It also serves with verbs meaning 'to give . . . to'. 'Dajem knjigu **bratu**' (*I'm giving the book to my brother*); 'Po'klanjam **sestri** sat' (*I'm giving the watch to my sister*); 'Idem **kući**' (*I'm going home*); 'Pišem **pri'jatelju**' (*I'm writing to my friend*); 'Go'vorim **bratu**' (*I'm talking to my brother*).

Accusative (the fourth case) is also called the 'objective case'. It always refers to the direct object of a sentence or phrase. 'Vidim lepi **park**' (*I can see a beautiful park*); 'Gledam **vi'soke bre'gove**' (*I'm looking at high hills*); 'Volim **naše selo**' (*I like our village*). It would also be correct to say that the accusative is governed by transitive verbs. 'Gledam **vaše dete**' (*I'm looking at your child*); 'Vozim **stara kola**' (*I'm driving an old car*).

Vocative (the fifth case) is used when addressing people (or animals, or objects in poetry). The word (or words) in vocative should always be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas and there should be an exclamation mark at the end of the sentence. 'Zdravo, **stari druže!**' (*Hallo, old comrade!*); 'Dobro jutro, **draga sestro!**' (*Good morning, dear sister!*); 'Dobro došli, **mladi pri'jatelji!**' (*Welcome, young friends!*).

Instrumental (the sixth case) is mainly used in two senses: either for tools or weapons for the carrying out of an action; or to denote persons, animals, or objects that are in the company of—or together with—other persons or objects. 'Pišem **novom o'lovkom**' (*I'm writing with a new pencil*); 'U'bio ga **mojom puškom**' (*He killed him with my gun*); 'Čovek je u sobi sa **ženom**' (*The man is in the room with a woman*); 'Knjiga sa **slikom**' (*The book with the picture*).

Locative (the seventh case) is also called 'the prepositional case'. Both these appellations actually explain its use. The case is applied either to describe the place (or location) where a person or object is or the place where an action is performed. 'Kuća je u **vašem selu**' (*The house is in your village*); 'Dečak je uvek na **u'lici**' (*The boy is always in the street*); 'O'stavi me na **miru!**' (*Leave me in peace!*); 'Zašto sedi u **parku?**' (*Why is he sitting in the park?*).

Here, incidentally, is an important rule: Both in singular and in plural, the locative (or prepositional) of any word declined is always the same as its dative—without any exception. It could almost be said that the locative (prepositional) has become extinct.

READING EXERCISE

Brat do'lazi kući. Pas je na u'lici. Moj muž je na polju, a tvoj je u selu. Pišem pismo, a ne knjigu. Ja čitam a on piše. Da li voziš kola? Po'klanjam ti sat. Zašto niste u parku? Ovo je o'lovka, a ono je knjiga. Da li vidiš knjigu? Da, vidim knjigu, ali ne znam da čitam. Os'tavi sestru na miru! Zašto je knjiga na stolu? Zašto či'tate knjigu, zašto ne či'tate no'vine? Zdravo pri'jatelju, gde si bio? Zašto pas laje? Ovaj gospo'din nije moj otac. Ovo su naše sestre. Gde su vaše sestre? U gradu su. Moja žena je kod kuće, ali moja kćerka nije. Zašto imaš pušku kad ideš u grad? Da li je ova slika lepa? Ko do'lazi? Ako nemaš knjige, zašto ne čitaš no'vine? Ovi Jugoslove'ni go'vore en'gleski. Zar ne go'vore srpski? Pijem mleko samo kada nemam vina.

TRANSLATION

Brother is coming home. The dog is in the street. My husband is in the field and yours is in the village. I am writing a letter, not a book. I am reading and he is writing. Do you drive a car? I am presenting you with my watch. Why are you not in the park? This is a pencil and that is a book. Do you see the book? Yes, I see the book, but I cannot read. Leave sister alone! Why is the book on the table? Why are you reading a book, why are you not reading a paper? Hallo my friend, where have you been? Why is the dog barking? This gentleman is not my father. These are our sisters. Where are your sisters? They are in town. My wife is at home, but my daughter isn't. Why do you have a gun when you are going to town? Is this picture nice? Who is coming? If you have no book, why don't you read the paper? These Yugoslavs speak English. Aren't they speaking Serbian? I drink milk only when I have no wine.

VOCABULARY

brat brother	zdravo! hello!
dolazi he comes, he is coming	drug comrade
pas dog	dobar good
trči he runs	dan day
muž husband	o'lovka pencil
sestra sister	u'biti to kill
kuća house	puška gun, rifle
naš our, ours	imam I have
sused neighbour	imaš you have
maši'na machine	nemam I have not
pro'izvodnja production	nemaš you have not
po'klanjam I present	ruski Russian (<i>adjective</i>)
sat watch, clock; hour	porek'lo origin
vidiš you see	go'vorim I speak, talk
voliš you like	brat brother
selo village	pišem I write
gledam I look	pri'jatelj friend (<i>masc.</i>)
gledaš you look	prijate'ljica friend (<i>fem.</i>)
breg hill	idem I go
pijem I drink	idemo we go
vozim I drive	dajem I give
kola car; cart	knjiga book

no'vine newspaper
 čovek man
 žena woman; wife
 slika picture
 ulica street
 o'staviti to leave
 mir peace
 sedi! sit down!
 park park
 i and
 ali but
 a and or but

čitaš you read (thou)
 či'tate you read
 ovo je this is
 ono je that is
 ovo su these are
 ono su those are
 pismo letter
 da yes
 ne no; not
 molim please
 hvala thanks

Note. Here is a suggestion. First read the above Serbo-Croatian sentences several times very carefully, just for reading practice. Then read sentence by sentence together with its translation. After that find all the relevant words in the Vocabulary above—and it even may be a good idea to copy the words out and learn them off by heart. Re-read then your Serbo-Croatian sentences and try to do the translation on your own. When you have done this once or twice, cover up the translation and write out your own translation—sentence by sentence. Compare your own translation with the one given above and make the necessary corrections. After that, take all the Serbo-Croatian sentences and translate them into English. Now take your English sentences and translate them into Serbo-Croatian. Correct your own Serbo-Croatian version against the one printed above—and repeat this several times.

This whole exercise can be repeated as many times as you like and your results are bound to get better every time. You can, of course, repeat the whole procedure later on and you can practise in the same way with other sentences given in the book. The procedure seems laborious and time wasting; but in fact it will give you satisfaction as soon as you begin to see results. And it is a good way not only of learning a great deal but also of consolidating what you have learned.

DECLENSION OF MASCULINE NOUNS

For purposes of this declension it is necessary to determine whether the final consonant belongs to the 'hard' or 'soft' category of consonants.

The following consonants are considered soft: c, ć, č, đ, dž, j, nj, lj, š, ž. It may be of some help to you to note that all these consonants—with the exception of 'c'—have a diacritical sign over them, i.e. a hook, a stroke, or a dot. Note that the consonantal group 'št' is also treated as soft. This is due to the fact that in an earlier developmental phase of the language the group used to be 'šč', which would make it 'soft' by definition.

In the case of masculine nouns there is also a distinction to be made between animate and inanimate nouns. Human beings and animals are, obviously, animate. For purposes of this declension, however, dead human beings and animals are also considered as 'animate' and are declined as such. This difference between animate and inanimate will influence only the accusative singular of masculine nouns.

(1) NOUNS WITH HARD CONSONANTAL ENDING

(a) ANIMATE NOUNS

Mesar—the butcher

Singular	Plural
N. mesar	mesa'ri
G. me'sara	mesa'ra
D. me'saru	mesa'rima
A. me'sara	mesa're
V. me'sare	mesa'ri
I. mesa'rom	mesa'rima
L. me'saru	mesa'rima

Note. The accusative singular of masculine animate nouns is identical with the genitive. In the case of inanimate nouns—see below—it is identical with the nominative.

(b) INANIMATE NOUNS

Prozor—the window

Singular	Plural
N. prozor	pro'zori
G. pro'zora	pro'zora
D. pro'zoru	pro'zorima
A. pro'zor	pro'zore
V. pro'zore	pro'zori
I. pro'zorom	pro'zorima
L. pro'zoru	pro'zorima

Notes

1. The dative and locative—both in singular and plural—are identical. (This rule applies to all words declined.)
2. The dative, instrumental, and locative plural are identical. (This rule, too, applies to all words declined.)
3. The nominative and vocative plural of almost all words declined are identical.
4. The genitive plural of almost all nouns ends in a long *ā*. But note that this is length only and not stress, which in the case of all final syllables is impossible, anyway.

(2) NOUNS WITH SOFT CONSONANTAL ENDING

(a) ANIMATE NOUNS

Krojač—*the tailor*

Singular	Plural
N. krojač	kroja'či
G. kroja'ča	kroja'ča
D. kroja'ču	kroja'čima
A. kroja'ča	kroja'če
V. kroja'ču	kroja'či
I. kroja'čem	kroja'čima
L. kroja'ču	kroja'čima

(b) INANIMATE NOUNS

Stolić—*little table*

Singular	Plural
N. stolić	sto'lići
G. sto'lića	stoli'ča
D. sto'liću	sto'lićima
A. sto'lić	sto'liće
V. sto'liću	sto'lići
I. sto'lićem	sto'lićima
L. sto'liću	sto'lićima

Notes

1. The vocative singular ending in 'u' and the instrumental singular ending in 'em' are different from the endings in the case of hard-ending masculine nouns.
2. The declension as given above for 'stolić' is the 'regular' declension for inanimate nouns with soft ending. It so happens,

however, that the number of nouns declined in this way is rather restricted and for most masculine nouns of this category you will have to apply the pattern of declension given below.

- Both in singular and plural, the dative, vocative, and locative cases of soft-ending masculine nouns are identical.

SPECIAL DECLENSIONS OF MASCULINE NOUNS

The declensions given above apply to *most* masculine nouns. There are, however, certain categories of masculine nouns that demand different treatment in one or several cases of their declension.

It is left here to the student to decide on one of two possibilities: either to cover the following ground now, in the order as given here, or to skip this section and go on to the declension of feminine and neuter nouns, in which case he will have to return to this material later on.

- A considerable number of masculine nouns inserts the syllable 'ov' or 'ev' in all plural cases between the stem and the case ending.

ANIMATE NOUNS

Kralj—*the king*

Singular	Plural
N. kralj	kra'ljevi
G. kralja	kra'ljeva
D. kralju	kra'ljevima
A. kralja	kra'ljeve
V. kralju	kra'ljevi
I. kraljem	kra'ljevima
L. kralju	kra'ljevima

INANIMATE NOUNS

Ključ—*the key*

Singular	Plural
N. ključ	klju'čevi
G. ključa	klju'čeva
D. ključu	klju'čevima
A. ključ	klju'čeve
V. ključu	klju'čevi
I. ključem	klju'čevima
L. ključu	klju'čevima

This declension applies to almost all monosyllabic nouns of this category and to most polysyllabic ones.

The examples given above deal with soft-ending nouns and the insert, where appropriate, is 'ev'. In the case of hard-ending nouns the insert is 'ov'. Examples: Drug-dru'govi (*comrade*); zid-zi'dovi (*wall*); rad-ra'dovi (*work, job*); zbor-zbo'rovi (*meeting*); stan-sta'novi (*flat*); pod-po'dovi (*floor*).

2. An almost opposite rule applies to masculine nouns ending in the syllable 'in', if such nouns denote a person belonging to a nation, a town, a profession (trade) or a religion. Here are a few examples: Srbin (*a Serb*); Bu'garin (*a Bulgarian*); Beo'gradjanin (*a Belgrade man*); Du'brovčanin (*a Dubrovnik man*); Hriš'ćanin (*a Christian*); Jevre'jin (*a Jew*); ka'sapin (*butcher*).

The declension of these nouns is normal in the singular, but in the plural they drop the 'in' and the normal case-endings are added to the remaining rump.

Srbin—a Serb

Singular	Plural
N. Srbin	Srbi
G. Sr'bina	Srba
D. Sr'binu	Sr'bima
A. Sr'bina	Srbe
V. Sr'bine	Srbi
I. Sr'binom	Sr'bima
L. Sr'binu	Sr'bima

3. Certain nouns ending in -ac, -ak, -at, -ar or -ao drop their 'a' in all cases after the nominative singular; they restore it, however, in the genitive plural. If it is an inanimate noun, the 'a' will also have to be restored in the accusative singular, since it has to be identical with the nominative. The 'a' is dropped in nouns ending in 'ao' in all cases after nominative singular, but the 'o' is also replaced by 'l' (see below).

Here are a few such nouns given in the nominative and genitive singular and in genitive plural. Starac, starca, sta'raca (*an old man*); Novac, novca, no'vaca (*money*); Stranac, stranca, stra'naca (*foreigner*); Lepak, lepka, le'paka (*glue*); Nokat, nokta, no'kata (*finger nail*); Lakat, lakta, la'kata (*elbow*); Vetar, vetra, vet'rova (*wind*); Posao, posla, po'sala or pos'lova (*work, business*); Ko'tao, kotla, ko'tala or kot'lova (*kettle or boiler*).

4. Many words adopted from foreign languages (often from Latin) end in a cluster of consonants, the last of them being 't'. When adopted as Serbo-Croat words they insert an 'a' in the nominative singular; they drop it again in all other cases—the same as has been shown above—but they restore it in the genitive plural. Here are a few such words, given again in nominative and genitive singular and in genitive plural. Fakat, fakta, fa'kata. Sub'jekat, sub'jekta, sub'jekata. Ele'menat, ele'menta, ele'menata. Momenat, momenta, mo'menata. Their meaning is obvious.

Another group of adopted foreign words ends in 'er', which is changed in Serbo-Croat into 'ar'. Here again the 'a' is often dropped in all cases after nominative singular, but is restored in genitive plural. Mi'nistar, mi'nistra, mi'nistara. Geo'metar, geo'metra, geo'metara. Metar, metra, me'tara.

5. Nouns ending in 'k' change it into 'č' in vocative singular which, being soft, makes it necessary to adopt also the ending such words take in the vocative, which is 'e'. Also, in all plural cases of such nouns, the 'k' at the end of the word is replaced by 'c' wherever it is followed by 'i'. The full declension of such nouns is given below. As a consequence of this rule, the consonants 'c' and 'k' alternate in the first five cases plural and 'c' remains also in the last two cases. Here are a few such nouns: Vojnik (*soldier*); junak (*hero*); pešak (*pedestrian*).

Vojnik—*soldier*

Singular	Plural
N. vojnik	vojni'ci
G. voj'nika	vojni'ka
D. voj'niku	vojni'cima
A. voj'nika	vojni'ke
V. voj'niče	vojni'ci
I. voj'nikom	vojni'cima
L. voj'niku	vojni'cima

Here are a few more words receiving the same treatment as 'vojniki': Radnik (*workman*); u'rednik (*editor*); na'rednik (*sergeant*); sta'novnik (*resident*).

The declension of the noun 'čovek' (*man*) follows the same pattern in the singular. The plural is quite irregular. The old Slavonic word 'ljudi' takes over and is declined in the same way as *feminine* nouns ending in a consonant (see below, page 25).

Here is the full declension.

Čovek—man

Singular	Plural
N. čovek	ljudi
G. čo'veka	ljudi
D. čo'veku	lju'dima
A. čo'veka	ljude
V. čo'veče	ljudi
I. čo'vekom	lju'dima
L. čo'veku	lju'dima

For nouns ending in 'g', the vocative singular will end in 'že' ('g' having changed to 'ž') and in 'zi' in nominative plural. After that, 'z' will again alternate with 'g' in the first cases plural and will be kept for the last three cases (druzi, drugo'va, drugo'vima, dru'gove, dru'govi, drugo'vima, drugo'vima). (Drug—*comrade*.) And again a few more examples: krug (*circle*); dug (*debt*); strug (*lathe*). The forms: dru'govi, drugo'vima, are normally used nowadays, while 'druzi, dru'zima', are used almost exclusively in poetry.

Lastly, nouns ending in 'h' behave in a similar way. In this case the final 'h' becomes 'š' in vocative singular and 's' in the plural cases when followed by 'i'. But here again the more normal thing is to insert in the plural an 'ov' and to keep the 'h'. 'Duh' means spirit or apparition and it is declined in the singular: duh, duha, duhu, duha, duše (vocative), duhom, duhu. In the plural: du'hovi, du'hova, du'hovima, du'hove, du'hovi, du'hovima, du'hovima. The plural can, however, also be: dusi, du'hova, du'sima, du'hove, dusi, du'sima, du'sima.

The accusative singular of 'duh' as given above, namely, 'duha', actually applies only if we mean by it 'spirit' in the sense of an apparition. If it means 'spirit' in the sense of intellect, then the accusative singular is 'duh'.

There are only a few nouns belonging to this category—such as greh (*sin*); meh (*bellows*).

6. Masculine nouns ending in 'o' insert an 'l' in all cases after nominative singular. Most of them also insert 'ov' in the plural—as can be seen from the declension given below. It should be noted that some of these nouns have kept their 'l' in Croatian even in the nominative singular. Here are a few such nouns, first in their Serbian

version. *Sto* (*table*); *vo* (*ox*); *soko* (*falcon*). In their Croatian version they are: *stol*, *vol*, and *sokol*.

Sto—table

Singular	Plural
N. sto	sto'lovi
G. stola	sto'lova
D. stolu	sto'lovima
A. sto	sto'love
V. stole	sto'lovi
I. stolom	sto'lovima
L. stolu	sto'lovima

Note. The only difference between Serbian and Croatian here is that the nominative and accusative singular are 'sto' in Serbian and 'stol' in Croatian.

DECLENSION OF FEMININE NOUNS

You know already that nouns ending in 'a' are feminine. This also applies to a number of nouns ending in 'a' but denoting men belonging to a certain profession or job or class, such as 'sudija' (*judge*); *vojvoda* (*duke*); *sluga* (*manservant*).

Žena—woman, wife

Singular	Plural
N. Žena	žene
G. žene	žēnā
D. ženi	že'nama
A. ženu	žene
V. ženo	žene
I. ženom	že'nama
L. ženi	že'nama

Notes

1. Nominative, accusative, and vocative plural are identical.
2. Dative, instrumental, and locative plural are identical, all ending in -ama. *The endings of all other nouns in these three cases are -ima.*
3. The genitive plural ending is a long 'a'—as it is in the case of almost all nouns.
4. If the ending of a noun in nominative singular is 'ica', its vocative singular will be 'ice'. Such endings are frequent in nouns that

have a male and female version, such as for instance 'u'čitelj—učite'ljica' (*schoolmaster—schoolmistress*); 'kralj—kra'ljica' (*king—queen*); 'glumac—glu'mica' (*actor—actress*). There are also many diminutive feminine nouns ending in 'ica', such as 'kuća—ku'ćica' (*house—little house*); 'knjiga—knji'žica' (*book—booklet*). The vocative singular of these nouns is: učite'ljice, kra'ljice, glu'mice, ku'ćice, knji'žice.

DECLENSION OF FEMININE NOUNS ENDING IN A CONSONANT

We have mentioned in our paragraph on the gender of nouns that there are a certain number of feminine nouns ending in a consonant. The dictionary will have to be your guide here, although you can rely on the rule that all abstract nouns ending in 'st' are feminine. All feminine nouns of this category are declined as shown below.

Vlast—*power, authority*

Singular	Plural
N. vlast	vlasti
G. vlasti	vlasti
D. vlasti	vlas'tima
A. vlast	vlasti
V. vlasti	vlasti
I. vlasti	vlas'tima
L. vlasti	vlas'tima

Notes

1. Nominative and accusative singular are identical, which means that they end in a consonant.
2. Dative, instrumental, and locative plural end in -ima (as do almost all nouns).
3. All the other cases end in "-i", and actually some people call this the 'i-declension'.

SPECIAL DECLENSIONS OF FEMININE NOUNS

The two nouns 'majka (*mother*) and 'kćerka' (*daughter*) are declined in the regular way—like other feminine nouns ending in 'a'.

Both these nouns, however, have alternative forms: 'mati' (*mother*) and 'kći' (*daughter*). There is no difference of meaning between the two sets of words and you are free to use either of them.

The nouns 'mati' and 'kíci' are declined as follows:

Mati—*mother*

Singular	Plural
N. mati	ma'tere
G. ma'tere	ma'tera
D. ma'teri	ma'terima
A. mater	ma'tere
V. ma'teri	ma'teri
I. ma'terom	ma'terima
L. ma'teri	ma'terima

Kíci—*daughter*

Singular	Plural
N. kíci	kéeri
G. kéeri	kéeri
D. kéeri	ké'e'rima
A. kéer	kéeri
V. kéeri	kéeri
I. kéeri	ké'e'rima
L. kéeri	ké'e'rima

DECLENSION OF NEUTER NOUNS

Here again, the same as with masculine nouns, there is a difference in the declension of nouns with 'hard' and 'soft' stem.

HARD STEM DECLENSION

Selo—*village*

Singular	Plural
N. selo	sela
G. sela	sela
D. selu	se'lima
A. selo	sela
V. selo	sela
I. selom	se'lima
L. selu	se'lima

SOFT STEM DECLENSION

Polje—*field*

Singular	Plural
N. polje	polja
G. polja	polja
D. polju	po'ljima
A. polje	polja
V. polje	polja
I. poljem	po'ljima
L. polju	po'ljima

Notes

1. Nominative, accusative, and vocative singular are identical.
2. Nominative, genitive, accusative, and vocative plural are identical.
3. Dative, instrumental, and locative plural are identical.
4. The difference between hard and soft ending nouns lies only in the instrumental case ('om' or 'em').

NEUTER NOUNS DECLINED WITH INSERTS

A considerable number of neuter nouns insert the syllable 'en' or 'et' between stem and case ending in all oblique cases (with the exception of accusative and vocative singular, since these are identical with the nominative). It is impossible to give any reliable rules and you will have to consult a dictionary before deciding whether to use the insert, and if so, which of the two to use.

NEUTER NOUNS INSERTING 'en'

Vreme—*time, weather*

Singular	Plural
N. vreme	vreme'na
G. vre'mena	vremē'na
D. vre'menu	vreme'nima
A. vreme	vreme'na
V. vreme	vreme'na
I. vre'menom	vreme'nima
L. vre'menu	vreme'nima

NEUTER NOUNS INSERTING 'et'

Dugme—button

Singular	Plural
N. dugme	dugme'ta
G. dug'meta	dugmē'ta
D. dug'metu	dugme'tima
A. dugme	dugme'ta
V. dugme	dugme'ta
I. dug'metom	dugme'tima
L. dug'metu	dugme'tima

NEUTER NOUNS INSERTING 'es'

There are three nouns whose singular is regular, while the syllable 'es' is inserted between stem and case ending in their plural. These nouns are: *nebo* (*sky*); *telo* (*body*); and *čudo* (*miracle*).

Nebo—heaven, sky

Plural	
N. nebe'sa	Telo—tele'sa
G. nebē'sa	čudo—čude'sa
D. nebe'sima	
A. nebe'sa	
V. nebe'sa	
I. nebe'sima	
L. nebe'sima	

There are another two neuter nouns with regular singular, but irregular plural declension. They are: *oko* (*eye*) and *uvo*, or *uho* (*ear*). They are neuter nouns and are declined as such in the singular; in the plural they become *feminine* and are declined after the so-called i-declension.

Oko—eye

Plural
N. oči
G. oči (or o'čiju)
D. o'čima
A. oči
V. oči
I. o'čima
L. o'čima

Uho (or uvo)—ear

Plural
N. uši
G. uši (or u'šiju)
D. u'šima
A. uši
V. uši
I. u'šima
L. u'šima

Note. Both these forms of 'uho' are used, but 'uvo' is normally used by Serbs and 'uho' by Croats. In the plural, however, only the above forms (all stemming from 'uho') are used.

Certain neuter nouns ending in 'e'—mostly denoting young animals—insert 'et' in the singular. In the plural they are declined after the 'i'-declension. But while it is quite possible to apply here the normal plural endings of that declension, it is more normal to take the singular endings. Both variants are given below.

Tele—calf

Singular	Plural (two possible versions)	
N. tele	telad	telad
G. te'leta	te'ladi	te'ladi
D. te'letu	te'ladi	te'ladima
A. tele	telad	telad
V. tele	te'ladi	te'ladi
I. te'letom	te'ladi	te'ladima
L. te'letu	te'ladi	te'ladima

Here are a few nouns declined in this way. Jagnje (*lamb*); pile (*chicken*); ždrebe (*foal*); prase (*piglet*). Also nouns like dugme (*button*); ćebe (*blanket*).

DECLENSION OF 'GOSPODIN', 'BRAT', AND 'DETE'

These three nouns—the first two masculine, the third neuter—are declined normally in their singular. In the first person plural they are given the ending 'a' and are then declined (and treated) after the *singular* declension of normal feminine nouns ending in 'a'. The declension given below applies to 'gospodin' and 'brat'.

Gospodin—gentleman, Mr. Brat—brother

Singular	Plural	
N. gospo'din	gospo'da	braća
G. gospo'dina	gospo'de	braće
D. gospo'dinu	gospo'di	braći
A. gospo'dina	gospo'du	braću
V. gospo'dine	gos'podo	braćo
I. gospo'dinom	gospo'dom	braćom
L. gospo'dinu	gospo'di	braći

Note. The noun 'Gospod' means 'The Lord'. It is always spelt

with a capital 'G' and is declined in the normal way. It obviously has no plural.

Dete—child

Singular	Plural
N. dete	deca
G. de'teta	dece
D. de'tetu	deci
A. dete	decu
V. dete	deco
I. de'tetom	decom
L. de'tetu	deci

Pronouns and adjectives belonging to these nouns in plural should be in feminine singular. The noun 'deca' should be used only when talking of children in general or of children of mixed sexes. 'Moja dobra braća' (*My good brothers*); 'Naša stara gospo'da' (*Our old gentlemen*); 'Ova mila deca' (*These nice children*).

THE VERB

Serbo-Croatian is a 'verbal' language: one should express oneself, whenever possible, with the help of verbs rather than any other word or combination of words. It is more correct to say in Serbo-Croat 'The gentleman lunches' than 'the gentleman is having his lunch'; 'I think that . . .' is better than 'I am of the opinion that . . .'.

A thorough study of the verb is therefore absolutely essential. Time and effort devoted to it are a good investment.

All Serbo-Croat verbs belong to one of the following three categories:

1. Transitive.—The effect of the subject's action is reflected on or finds its expression in another person, animal, or object. 'Molim vas' (*I beg you*); 'Vidim pri'jatelja' (*I can see my friend*); 'Pas jede meso' (*The dog eats meat*).

The object is normally in the accusative, although a few verbs govern the dative. 'Go'vorimo de'vojkama' (*We are talking to the girls*); 'Viču vojniku' (*They are shouting to the soldier*).

2. Intransitive.—The action concerns only the person (animal, object) performing an action. Verbs in such sentences often describe movement or rest on the part of the subject. 'Čovek hoda' (*The man is walking*); 'Žena sedi' (*The woman is sitting*); 'Kamen pada' (*The stone is falling*).

3. Reflexive.—The action affects, or is reflected on, the subject of the sentence or phrase and not, as normally, on the object. Verbs followed by 'myself, yourself,' etc., offer a good analogy although they are not nearly so numerous in English nor do they always coincide with cases where reflexive verbs are used in Serbo-Croatian. In the statement 'I enjoy myself' (in the sense of 'having a good time') or else 'I shave myself' (meaning that I do the shaving myself, I am not being shaved by the hairdresser) we come quite near the meaning of corresponding Serbo-Croatian verbs.

Verbs of this category can be understood in another situation, when the action and its effect are 'mutual'. Za'bavljamo se means either 'we are having a good time' or 'we entertain each other'.

The verbal forms most often used in Serbo-Croatian are: the infinitive; the present, the composite past and future tenses; the conditional; and the imperative. Other tenses exist, too, but they are

used much less frequently and the rules and patterns relating to them will be given later on.

TO BE (BITI)

We are beginning with this verb since it will help us at this stage to form our sentences. It will also serve as an introduction to other verbs.

The verbs 'biti' (*to be*) and 'hteti' (*to wish, want*) also serve as auxiliary verbs. And they are the only verbs to have two forms of conjugation—the full and the short (or enclitic) forms.

PRESENT TENSE OF 'BITI'

FULL FORM

Singular	Plural
Jesam I am	jesmo we are
jesi you are	jeste you are
jest he (she, it) is	jesu they are (<i>m., f., n.</i>)

ENCLITIC FORM

Singular	Plural
ja sam I am	mi smo we are
ti si you are	vi ste you are
on je he is	oni su they are (<i>m.</i>)
ona je she is	one su they are (<i>f.</i>)
ono je it is	ona su they are (<i>n.</i>)

Normally it is the enclitic forms of 'biti' that are used, while the full forms should be used only for specific reasons, as shown below.

The enclitic forms of 'to be' have to be introduced by some other word (usually a personal pronoun), since no enclitic of any sort can be the first word of a sentence or clause. It so happens that the personal pronoun is often the subject—and therefore also the first word—of a sentence. This also means that the sentence has the same construction as its English equivalent. 'On je kod kuće' (*he is at home*). You cannot say in English 'Is at home', nor can you say in Serbo-Croat 'je kod kuće'. If, however, a noun serves as the subject, it will have to figure as the first word of the sentence and there is no need any more of introducing a personal pronoun, nor is it, indeed, possible to do so. You cannot say in English 'Father he is at home', nor can you say in Serbo-Croat 'Otac on je kod kuće'. It has to be 'Otac je kod kuće'.

In the statements 'Ja sam čovek' and 'ona je žena' (meaning respectively 'I am a man' and 'she is a woman') the subjects are 'ja' and 'ona'. In neither of these statements is there any special stress on the verbal forms of 'to be' and that is why the enclitic forms of the verb are used. If, however, you do want, for any reason, to stress the verb, you will have to use the full forms of the conjugation. You will then have to begin the sentence or clause with the full form of the verb. And whenever you use these full forms you also have to lay stress on them. Or to put it another way: use the longer forms of the present tense of 'biti' only when you want to stress that part of the statement; and if you do use them, don't omit to stress them. '**Jesam** Englez i zato živim u En'gleskoj' (*I am an Englishman and that is why I live in England*); '**Jest** u'moran, ali ne može da spava' (*He is tired, yet he cannot sleep*); '**Ja nisam** Englez, ali **on jest**' (*I am not an Englishman, but he is*). In the last sentence you juxtapose both personal pronouns and verbs and you therefore have to stress them.

When answering a question expressing surprise, astonishment, or doubt, you again use the full form of 'to be'. If, for instance, asked: 'Zar ste Englez?' (*So you are an Englishman?*), you will reply: 'Jesam Englez', or with more emphasis: 'Da, jesam Englez' (*Yes, I am an Englishman*).

You will have noticed the second person singular introduced by 'ti', which actually means 'thou', not 'you'. There is nothing archaic about using 'ti si' (thou art) in Serbo-Croatian. It is, in fact, the only possible way of addressing people with whom you are on terms of 'familiarity'—exactly as 'tu' or 'toi' is used in French and 'Du' in German. You actually have to use 'ti' in Serbo-Croatian when addressing members of your family (whether younger or older than yourself). Equally, when addressing any child, or an intimate friend, or when talking to animals. Also when, in a poetic style, addressing clouds, waves, the sea, mountains, or stars.

SENTENCES

Ja sam čovek a ti si žena. Gde je žena? Ona je ovde. Žena je u bašti. Mi smo ofici'ri a vi ste vojni'ci. Žene su u ku'ćama. Moja sestra je u školi, a tvoja je u selu. Moj pri'jatelj je u gradu. Škola je u gradu, a u'čitelj je u selu. Ja sam đak, a moj brat je ofi'cir. Vi ste moj u'čitelj a ja sam vaš u'čenik. Đaci su u se'lima, a u'čitelji su u gra'dovima. Mi smo selja'ci, a vi ste gospo'da.

TRANSLATION

I am a man and you are a woman. Where is the woman? She is here. The woman is in the garden. We are officers and you are soldiers. The women are in houses. My sister is at school and yours is in the village. My friend is in town. The school is in town and the teacher is in the village. I am a pupil and my brother is an officer. You are my schoolmaster and I am your pupil. The schoolboys are in villages and the schoolmasters are in towns. We are peasants and you are gentlemen.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

The man is in the house and the woman is in town. The teacher is in the garden. They are soldiers and we are pupils. The peasants are in villages and the teachers are in towns. Where is your sister? My sister is at home. Your sister is in the street. (*Note.* Say 'on the street'—there is no stigma in the statement!) Why are the schoolboys in the village, why are they not in town? Is this girl your sister? No, she is my friend, my sister is in town.

NEGATIVE PRESENT TENSE OF 'BITI'

This is formed with the help of the negative particle 'ni', prefixed to the respective forms of the 'enclitic' present tense.

- (**ja**) **nisam** I am not
 (**ti**) **nisi** you are not
 (**on, ona, ono**) **nije** he (she, it) is not
 (**mi**) **nismo** we are not
 (**vi**) **niste** you are not
 (**oni, one, ona**) **nisu** they (*m., f., n.*) are not

Nisam, nisi, etc., are not enclitics; they are full forms and can, therefore, be used at the beginning of sentences without being introduced by a personal pronoun or any other words. 'Nisam Englez' (*I am not an Englishman*); 'Nisi đak' (*You are not a student*); 'Nismo u Beo'gradu' (*We are not in Belgrade*). Here again, in the same way as shown on page 33, the personal pronoun will be introduced only if there is special stress on that part of the statement—especially so in cases of comparison or juxtaposition: '**Ja** nisam u Beo'gradu, ali **ti** jesi' (*I am not in Belgrade, but you are*).

The situation is different in the third person, both of singular and plural. If you say 'Nije u Beo'gradu', this may mean 'He is not

in Belgrade', or 'She is not in Belgrade', or, indeed, 'It is not in Belgrade.' The same goes for corresponding sentences in the third person plural, 'Nisu u Beo'gradu.' So, in order to avoid misunderstandings in the third person of both singular and plural, even negative sentences will have to begin with a personal pronoun—always provided, of course, that no other subject is used, such as a noun. 'On nije u Beo'gradu' (*He is not in Belgrade*); 'Ona nije u Za'grebu' (*She is not in Zagreb*); 'Ono nije moje selo' (*It is not my village*); 'Oni nisu vojnici' (*They are not soldiers*); 'One nisu naše sestre' (*They are not our sisters*); 'Ona kola nisu nova' (*That car is not new*). But, of course: 'Otac nije kod kuće' (*Father is not at home*); certainly not 'Otac on nije kod kuće' (which would be: Father he is not at home). 'Majka nije u selu' (*Mother is not in the village*); 'Sestre nisu učiteljice' (*My sisters are not schoolmistresses*).

If, on the other hand, it is clear from the context who or what is the subject of a conversation or a written passage, the personal pronoun can once again be omitted. 'Da li je vaša sestra u Londo'nu? Nije, u Beo'gradu je' (*Is your sister in London? No, she isn't, she is in Belgrade*). There are sentences where special stress is laid either on the person or on the verb 'to be', or, indeed, on both. In such cases again the use of the personal pronoun becomes necessary as also that of the full forms of 'to be'. And not only are these words and forms used, they also have to carry the stress of intonation. This again happens especially in cases of comparison or juxtaposition. '**Ja** nisam Englez, ali **vi** jeste' (I am not *an Englishman* but you are); '**Ti** nisi u Za'grebu, a **oni** nisu u Londo'nu' (You are not *in Zagreb* and they are not *in London*).

SENTENCES

Nisam kod kuće, u školi sam. Brat nije kod kuće, on je u gradu. Ja nisam star a vi niste mladi. Moje sestre nisu u gradu, one su na selu kod naših prijatelja. Gospo'din nije u parku, ali gos'poda jest. Nisam na u'lici, u bašti sam. Znam da niste kod kuće, ali ne znam gde jeste. On nije ofi'cir, ali vi jeste. Da li je ovo vaša sestra? Ne, ovo je moja majka, a moja sestra je u Beo'gradu.

TRANSLATION

I am not at home, I am at school. Brother is not at home, he is in town. I am not old and you are not young. My sisters are not in town, they are with our friends in the village. The gentleman is not in the

park, but the lady is. I am not in the street, I am in the garden. I know you are not at home, but I don't know where you *are*. He is not an officer, but you are. Is this your sister? No, this is my mother, my sister is in Belgrade.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Father isn't young. My mother is in the garden, she is not in town. My brother isn't at home, he is in the village. My friends are not in the village, they are in town. I know he is not in (the) town. He isn't old, but he is a good teacher. I know I am not a good pupil. Our officers are not old, they are young. I know (that) your sister is not in town, but I don't know whether she is at home. Are you at home or is your brother?

INTERROGATIVE PRESENT TENSE OF 'TO BE'

There are several ways of forming an interrogative sentence of 'biti' or of all other verbs. The simplest way—which also happens to be the one most frequently used—is by prefacing a positive statement with the interrogative particle 'da li' and putting a question mark at the end of the sentence or phrase.

Da li sam (ja)? Am I?

da li si (ti)? are you?

da li je (on, ona, ono)? is he (she, it)?

da li smo (mi)? are we?

da li ste (vi)? are you?

da li su (oni, one, ona)? are they (*masc., fem., neut.*)?

The sentence begins, as you see above, with 'da li' and not with the enclitic forms of the present tense of 'biti'. Normally, therefore, no personal pronoun need be used at all. It will, however, be introduced if special emphasis is to be laid on the person concerned; and if so, the personal pronoun will follow the enclitic forms of the present tense. It will again have to be stressed by intonation, for reasons mentioned in previous similar cases.

'Da li sam **ja** u'čitelj ili si **ti**?' (*Am I the teacher or are you?*); Da li ste **vi** u Londo'nu ili smo **mi**?' (*Are you in London or are we?*).

Instead of 'da li' you can use in the same way 'zar'—another interrogative particle. 'Zar sam **ja** u'čitelj?' (*Am I the teacher?*); 'Zar si **ti** u Dubrov'niku?' (*Are you in Dubrovnik?*); 'Zar je **on** tvoj

brat?' (So he is your brother?). The question in such cases carries special emphasis and usually expresses surprise, astonishment, or indignation on the part of the person asking the question. 'Zar je **on** ovde?' (You don't mean to say that he is here?); 'Zar sam **ja** kriv što nemaš stana?' (So it is my fault that you have no flat?); 'Zar za'ista nemaš no'vaca?' (Do you really have no money?).

Another way of forming questions is by starting the sentence with the full forms of 'to be' and following them with 'li'—also an interrogative particle. Questions of this kind again carry special emphasis, implying the refutation of an unwarranted imputation. 'Jesam li **ja** od'govoran za sve to?' (Am I responsible for all this?); 'Jesmo li **mi** to i'kada tvr'dili?' (Did we ever assert this?).

And finally, a question can be formulated simply by putting a question mark—and lifting one's voice—at the end of a normal, positive statement—much as in English. 'Ovo je vaša kuća?' (This is your house?); 'On je Englez?' (He is an Englishman?). Questions of this kind tend to express doubt about the correctness of the other person's assumptions or assertions.

Note. If a statement begins with any interrogative word (pronoun, conjunction, adverb), the sentence will be formed without 'da li' or 'zar'—just as in English. Here are a few such words: Ko? (who?), koji? (which?), kako? (how?), zašto? (why?), gde? (where?), etc. 'Ko je ovaj gospo'din?' (Who is this gentleman?); 'Koji dečak je vaš brat?' (Which boy is your brother?); 'Kako ste došli o'vamo?' (How did you come here?); 'Zašto je vaš u'čitelj o'tišao?' (Why has your teacher gone?); 'Gde je bila vaša žena?' (Where was your wife?).

PERFECT TENSE OF 'BITI'

There are several past tenses in Serbo-Croat. The most important of them is the 'perfect' tense given here. It again has a full and a short form.

FULL FORM

Singular

Ja sam bio (bila, bilo) I was (or have been) (*m., f., n.*)

ti si bio (bila, bilo) you were (or have been) (*m., f., n.*)

on je bio he was (or has been) (*m.*)

ona je bila she was (or has been) (*f.*)

ono je bilo it was (or has been) (*n.*)

Plural

mi smo bili (bile, bila) we were (or have been) (*m., f., n.*)**vi ste bili (bile, bila)** you were (or have been) (*m., f., n.*)**oni su bili** they were (or have been) (*m.*)**one su bile** they were (or have been) (*f.*)**ona su bila** they were (or have been) (*n.*)

SHORT FORM

Singular

Bio (bila) sam I was (or have been) (*m., f.*)**bio (bila) si** etc.**bio je****bila je****bito je**

Plural

Bili (bile) smo**bili (bile) ste****bili su****bile su****bila su**

An important limitation has to be observed in respect of the enclitic tense in secondary clauses. Such clauses are always introduced by a conjunction. It is therefore impossible to use the shorter perfect tense in a secondary clause, since the auxiliary verb—in this case an enclitic—would be pushed into third place which, by definition, is not permissible. You *cannot* say: ‘Znam da bili ste u Zagrebu’—since your ‘ste’ would be the third word in the clause, and not the second as it should be. The sentence should be: ‘Znam da ste bili u Za'grebu’ (*I know you were in Zagreb*). If you want to stress the ‘you’, the sentence will be: ‘Znam da ste **vi** bili u Za'grebu.’

Whether to use the full or the short form of the past tense of ‘to be’ in the main clause will depend, in general, on whether the subject is or is not to be stressed. ‘**Ja** sam bio u Beo'gradu, ali **vi** niste bili’ (*I was in Belgrade, but you were not*). But: ‘Bio sam u Beo'gradu’ (*I was in Belgrade*) where the ‘I’ is not stressed.

NEGATIVE PERFECT TENSE OF ‘BITI’

The negative perfect tense uses ‘nisam, nisi’, etc., as auxiliary. Since these are full forms and not enclitics, they can open a statement and need not be preceded or introduced by a personal pronoun.

- (ja) nisam bio (bila, bilo) I wasn't (have not been)
 (ti) nisi bio (bila, bilo) etc.
 (on) nije bio
 (ona) nije bila
 (ono) nije bilo
 (mi) nismo bili (bile, bila)
 (vi) niste bili (bile, bila)
 (oni) nisu bili (*m.*)
 (one) nisu bile (*f.*)
 (ona) nisu bila (*n.*)

The use or omission of the personal pronoun is governed by the same rules as in the positive perfect tense, or indeed as in other tenses. 'Nisam bio kod kuće' (*I was not at home, or I have not been at home*). 'Nisu bili u kući, bili su u bašti' (*They were not in the house, they were in the garden*). 'Nisi bio u Beo'gradu, ali **jesi** bio u Za'grebu' (*You were not in Belgrade, but you certainly were in Zagreb*). '**Ja** nisam bio u Londo'nu, a **ona** nije bila u Beo'gradu' (*I was not in London and she was not in Belgrade*).

INTERROGATIVE NEGATIVE PAST TENSE OF 'BITI'

This tense is again normally introduced by 'da li', which is followed by 'nisam bio', 'nisi bio,' etc. If stress is to be laid on the person concerned, the personal pronoun will be used and it will follow the interrogative particle.

Singular

- Da li (ja) nisam bio (bila)? Wasn't I (haven't I been)? (*m., f.*)
 da li (ti) nisi bio (bila)? etc.
 da li (on) nije bio?
 da li (ona) nije bila?
 da li (ono) nije bilo?

Plural

- da li (mi) nismo bili (bile)?
 da li (vi) niste bili (bile)?
 da li (oni) nisu bili?
 da li (one) nisu bile?
 da li (ona) nisu bila?

Instead of using 'da li', you can use 'zar' in exactly the same way. The question will carry more emphasis—as was explained in the corresponding passage on the present tense. Questions can also be formed by using 'li'—the same as in the present tense. It is also possible to form a positive sentence and follow it with a question mark, again as in the present tense. 'Zar ste bili kod kuće?' (*So you were at home?*); 'Nisu li oni ofici'ri?' (*So they are not officers?*); 'Bili ste u'morni?' (*You were tired?*).

SENTENCES

Bili smo u gradu. Znam da ste bili u gradu, ali gde ste sada? Moj sused je bio ofi'cir, a sada je u'čitelj. Naši pri'jatelji su bili s nama u Fran'cuskoj. Da li ste bili na u'lici? Jesmo bili, ali sada nismo. Ko je bio u gradu, a ko nije? Mislim da je moj brat bio, ali sada više nije, sada je kod kuće. Zdravo, pri'jatelju, da li si jučer bio u kafa'ni? Ne, ni'kada ne idem u kafa'nu ako ne moram. Zar niste i vi bili u gradu? Nisam, bio je samo moj brat. Da li on nije bio vojnik? Nije bio on, ali moj pri'jatelj jest bio. Da li ti nisi bio kod kuće pre mene? Nisam, bio sam u parku.

TRANSLATION

We were in town. I know you were in town, but where are you now? My neighbour was an officer and now he is a schoolmaster. Our friends were with us in France. Were you in the street? We were, but we are not there now. Who was in town and who wasn't? I think my brother was, but he isn't there any more, he is at home now. Hallo, my friend, were you at the café yesterday? No, I never go to the café if I don't have to. Weren't you in town? No, I wasn't, only my brother was there. Wasn't he a soldier? No, he wasn't, but my friend was. Weren't you at home before me? No, I was in the park.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Were you an officer or a teacher? I don't know where my brother was yesterday. Were you in town yesterday? No, I wasn't, but my father was. Why were you not in the park yesterday? I wasn't there, because I had to be at home. Is your sister in the park? No, she was there in the morning but she is in the village now. Was your friend at home yesterday? Yes, he was, but he isn't there now. Were you then a soldier? No, sir, I was never a soldier.

THE FUTURE TENSE OF 'BITI'

This tense consists of the enclitic present tense of 'hteti' (*to wish, want, desire*) and the infinitive of 'biti'. Here, first, are the full and enclitic forms of the present tense of the auxiliary verb.

'Hteti' (*to wish, want, desire*)—Present Tense

FULL FORM

Singular

hoću I wish (*want, desire*)**hoćeš** etc.**hoće**

Plural

ho'ćemo**ho'ćete****hoće**

ENCLITIC FORM

Singular

ja ću I shall**ti ćeš** you will**on (ona, ono) će** he (*she, it*)
will

Plural

mi ćemo we shall**vi ćete** you will**oni (one, ona) će** they will
(*m., f., n.*)

Note. The enclitic forms of the present tense of 'hteti' cannot, of course, be used as the first word of a statement. Unless there is another word there, they have to be introduced by a personal pronoun.

These enclitics serve as auxiliary for the future tense of 'biti' as also of all other verbs. They can be used on their own (much as in English) only in elliptic sentences, say when answering a question: "Who is going to be in town? We shall", "Ko će biti u gradu? Mi ćemo." But even here it would be more correct to answer: "Mi ćemo biti."

We can now proceed to our immediate problem, i.e. the future tense of 'biti'. It again has a full and an enclitic form.

FULL FORM

Singular

Ja ću biti I shall be**ti ćeš biti** you will be**on (ona, ono) će biti** he (*she, it*) will be

Plural

mi ćemo biti we shall be**vi ćete biti** you will be**oni (one, ona) će biti** they (*m., f., n.*) will be

The personal pronoun will be dropped, much the same as in English, if there is another word to introduce the enclitic auxiliary verb. 'Sestra će biti kod naših prijatelja' (*Sister will be with our friends*); 'Sutra ću biti u Pari'zu' (*Tomorrow I shall be in Paris*); 'Možda ćemo svi biti u Jugo'slaviji' (*Perhaps we shall all be in Yugoslavia*).

If a sentence begins with the verb, instead of using the full form of the future tense (as shown above) we use the enclitic alternative. This is formed by dropping the -ti ending of the infinitive and putting in its place the enclitic present tense of 'hteti' as its new endings.

ENCLITIC FUTURE TENSE OF 'BITI'—SERBIAN VERSION

Singular	Plural
Biću I shall be	bi'ćemo
bićeš etc.	bi'ćete
biće	biće

The enclitic future tense is one of the extremely rare cases where there is a genuine—though very slight—difference in grammar between the Serbian and Croatian versions of the language. The enclitic future tense as given above is the Serbian version; in it, we dropped the -ti ending of the infinitive before the new endings (i.e. the auxiliary verb) were added. In Croatian it is only the final -i that is dropped from the infinitive and the auxiliary (ću, ćeš, etc.) follows *as a separate word*. It is important to note that the auxiliary verb does not in this case coalesce with the verb itself, as it does in the Serbian version.

ENCLITIC FUTURE TENSE OF 'BITI'—CROATIAN VERSION

Singular.	Plural
Bit ću I shall be	bit ćemo
bit ćeš etc.	bit ćete
bit će	bit će

Note

- Both these versions (Serbian and Croatian) apply only to verbs ending in their infinitive in 'ti'.
- The enclitic future tense can never be used in a secondary clause, since such clauses are always introduced by a conjunction (da, ako, čim, etc.), which would make the 'ću', 'ćeš', etc. the third word in the clause instead of being the second word according to the general rule.

NEGATIVE FUTURE TENSE OF 'BITI'

This is formed on the same pattern as the negative past tense. 'Ne ću biti, ne ćeš biti, ne će biti', etc.

Since the 'ne' precedes the enclitic auxiliary verb—or introduces it—no personal pronoun is necessary normally. If you have to introduce it because you want to lay stress on it, the word order will be as follows: *ja ne ću biti, ti ne ćeš biti*, etc.

The enclitic form of the future tense cannot be used in negative sentences, since it would make the enclitic verb the third statement in the sentence. You cannot say 'ja ne biću', nor 'ne biću', 'ne bićeš', etc.

INTERROGATIVE FUTURE TENSE OF 'BITI'

This is again introduced by 'da li', or 'zar', and the personal pronoun is dropped: 'Da li ću biti', 'da li ćeš biti'; or 'Zar ćemo biti', 'zar ćete biti', etc. If the personal pronoun is to be stressed, the word order will be: interrogative pronoun, auxiliary verb, personal pronoun. 'Da li ću ja biti'; 'Zar ćete vi biti'; 'da li će oni biti', etc.

SENTENCES

Danas sam u gradu, ali sutra ću biti u selu. Moj brat će biti ofi'cir. Moja sestra će sutra biti kod naših roditelja. Naši su'sedi će sutra biti u parku. Bi'ćemo u parku sa prijateljima. Da li ne ćete biti u selu? Ne, bi'ćemo u gradu. Zar će i vaši prijatelji biti u gradu? Ne, oni će biti u selu. Da li ćete i vi biti u selu? Ne ću biti u selu, biću u gradu. Moja majka sutra ne će biti kod kuće, bit će kod naših su'seda. Ne ću biti u gradu, nego ću biti kod kuće. Ne ćemo biti u bašti, nego ćemo biti u parku. Ja ne ću biti kod kuće, ali će biti moja žena. Znam da on ne će biti u Jugoslaviji. Da li ćete biti u Beogradu ili u Zagrebu? Zar ćete biti u Londonu? Ne znam da li će oni biti u bašti ili u kući.

TRANSLATION

I am in town today, but tomorrow I shall be in the village. My brother will be an army officer. My sister will be with our parents tomorrow. Our neighbours will be in the park tomorrow. We shall be in the park with our friends. Won't you be in the village? No, we shall be in town. So your friends will also be in town? No, they will be in the village. Will you, too, be in the village? No, I shall not

be in the village, I shall be in town. My mother will not be at home tomorrow, she will be with our neighbours. I shall not be in town, I shall be at home. We shall not be in the garden, we shall be in the park. I shall not be at home, but my wife will be. I know that he will not be in Yugoslavia. Will you be in Belgrade or in Zagreb? So you will be in London? I don't know whether they will be in the garden or in the house.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

I was at school yesterday, I am at home today and I shall be in town tomorrow. Will your sister be at home tomorrow? No, she was at home yesterday and will be in town tomorrow. Why will you not be in Yugoslavia next year? I cannot be in Yugoslavia since I have to be here at school. Will your mother be in town today or tomorrow? I think (that) she will not be there tomorrow. I know your father will not be at home, but will he be in town?

FUTURE TENSE IN SUBSIDIARY CLAUSES

You are, of course, aware that you cannot say in English: "When I shall be at home I shall phone you", you have to say instead: "When I am at home I shall phone you." By using the present tense in the subsidiary and the future tense in the main clause you convey that the action in the subsidiary clause also happens in the future.

Almost the same rule applies to sentences of that type in Serbo-Croat, but in the subsidiary clause you will have to use the only 'conjunctive' existing in Serbo-Croatian—the conjunctive present tense of 'biti'.

The use of the conjunctive is obligatory after the following conjunctions:

ako if	kad when (<i>in future</i>)
čim as soon as	kadgod whenever (<i>in future</i>)
dok while; as long as	pre nego što before (<i>in future</i>)

CONJUNCTIVE PRESENT TENSE OF 'BITI'

Singular	Plural
budem	bu'demo
budeš	bu'dete
bude	buđu

SENTENCES

Kad budem kod kuće, telefoni'raću vam. Ako bu'dete u Beo'gradu i ja ću doći. Čim budu u Jugo'slaviji, govo'riće samo srpsko-hr'vatski. Ako bu'dete na selu, moći ćete da slu'šate ra'dio. Kadgod budem u Dubrov'niku, mis'liću na vas. Dok budem u Beo'gradu, mo'raću da radim u u'redu. Pre nego što budem tamo, mo'raću da radim dan i noć.

TRANSLATION

When I am at home, I shall phone you. If you are in Belgrade I shall come too. As soon as they are in Yugoslavia, they will speak Serbo-Croatian only. If you are in the village, you will be able to listen to the radio. Whenever I am in Dubrovnik I shall think of you. While I am in Belgrade I shall have to work in the office. Before I am there I shall have to work day and night.

Note. The conjunctive present tense of 'biti' also has to be used if a secondary clause is introduced by a verb corresponding to the so-called 'deficient' English verbs: must, need, ought to, shall (see page 75).

CONDITIONAL OF 'BITI'

This is a compound form consisting of an auxiliary verb and the past participle active (the same as used for the perfect tense).

The auxiliary verb in this case is the 'aorist' tense of 'biti'. The aorist is a past tense, hardly ever used on its own in Serbo-Croat and its meaning is identical with the 'passé défini' in French.

THE AORIST OF 'BITI'

Singular	Plural
(ja) bih	(mi) bismo
(ti) bi	(vi) biste
(on, ona, ono) bi	(oni, one, ona) biše

When using this tense as an auxiliary for the conditional (of 'biti' or of any other verb), one can either use these full forms for all persons except for the third person plural where 'biše' is contracted to 'bi'. But in practice, one mostly uses 'bih' for the first person singular and 'bi' for all other persons, although the full forms of 'bismo' and 'biste' for the first and second persons plural are still often used.

FULL FORM CONDITIONAL OF 'BITI'

Singular

Ja bih bio (bila) I should be (*m., f.*)**ti bi bio (bila)****on bi bio****ona bi bila****ono bi bilo**

Plural

mi bismo (or bi) bili (bile)**vi biste (or bi) bili (bile)****oni bi bili****one bi bile****ona bi bila**

SHORT FORM CONDITIONAL OF 'BITI'

Singular

bio (bila) bih I should be (*m., f.*)**bio (bila) bi****bio bi****bila bi****bilo bi**

Plural

bili (bile) bi (bismo)**bili (bile) bi (biste)****bili bi****bile bi****bila bi**

As you can see, many of the short forms in both the singular and the plural are identical, but you will almost always be able to tell from the context which one is actually intended. Where confusion is likely to arise the full forms should be used.

Both in the full and in the shorter forms of the conditional, the shortened 'bi' can be replaced by 'bismo' and 'biste' in the first and second persons plural; it is advisable to do so whenever it may be considered necessary to avoid any danger of confusion or misunderstanding.

The same pattern—as will be seen later on—applies to the formation of the conditional of other verbs.

NEGATIVE CONDITIONAL

This is derived from the full form in the same way as the future tense, the 'ne' following the personal pronoun: 'Ja ne bih bio, ti ne bi bio', etc.

INTERROGATIVE CONDITIONAL

This is introduced by 'da li' or 'zar'. The personal pronoun is dropped, unless it has to be used in order to avoid misunderstanding or possible confusion. If the personal pronoun is used, it follows the auxiliary verb: 'Da li bih ja bio, da li bi ti bio', etc.

Only the full form can be used for interrogative conditional sentences.

SENTENCES

Ja bih bio kod kuće. On ne bi bio kod kuće, ali bi bio u parku. Da li biste bili u gradu? Zar on ne bi bio u bašti? Zar ona ne bi bila vaša žena? Da li bi ti bio kod kuće ili bi bio tvoj brat? Ko bi bio u gradu?

TRANSLATION

I should be at home. He would not be at home, but he would be in the park. Would you be in town? Would he not be in the garden? Would she not be your wife? Would you be at home or would your brother be? Who would be in town?

TRANSLATE INTO SERBIAN

She would not be at home, but he would. I should not be at home, but I should be in the village. Would you not be in Belgrade? Would you be in town or would your brother be? Would he be your brother? Would your brother now be at home?

Note. Before proceeding to the formation of proper conditional sentences you will have to acquaint yourself with the rules given on page 63 f.

IMPERATIVE OF 'BITI'

Only the second person singular and the first and second persons plural have genuine imperative forms in Serbo-Croatian; the other persons, just as in English, are formed with the help of the word 'neka', meaning, roughly, 'let him, let them.'

Singular

.....

budi be (thou)**neka bude** let him (her, it)
be

Plural

bu'dimo let us be**bu'dite** be (you)**neka budu** let them be
(*m., f., n.*)

NEGATIVE IMPERATIVE OF 'BITI'

Singular

.....

ne budi don't be**neka ne bude** don't let him
(her, it) be

Plural

ne bu'dimo don't let us
be**ne bu'dite** don't be**neka ne budu** don't let
them be (*m., f., n.*)

SENTENCES

Budi kod kuće u šest sati! Neka bude u gradu, ali neka ne bude u kafa'ni! Ne bu'dimo sada ku'kavice! Bu'dite mirni, sve će biti u redu! Ne bu'dite smešni, gos'pođice! Neka ne budu u šumi, neka budu u parku!

TRANSLATION

Be at home at 6 o'clock! Let him be in town, but don't let him be at the café! Don't let us be cowards now! Be calm, everything will be all right! Don't be silly, miss! Don't let them be in the forest, let them be in the park!

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Don't be in the village before 4 o'clock! Be at home or in town, but don't be at the theatre! Don't be a coward! Don't let us be in town without them! Don't let us be silly, brothers!

CONJUGATION OF VERBS OTHER THAN 'BITI'

The rules, patterns, and examples of conjugations of verbs other than 'biti', given below, should serve as a useful guide to this highly important part of the Serbo-Croatian language. It is advisable to study them very carefully and to commit them to memory.

When deciding on the pattern of conjugation for any individual verb you should peruse the examples given here and the List of Verbs on page 80 ff. Some dictionaries also provide useful hints.

GENERAL NOTES ON CONJUGATION

You will see that no personal pronouns are used in the conjugations given here. This is so since the ending of the verb indicates quite clearly the person carrying out the action described by the verb.

The same rule applies to the third person singular and plural, unless a misunderstanding may be created. If we talk or write about a man (*m.*), a woman (*f.*) or a child (*n.*), we can carry on talking or writing about their actions in the third person without the use of personal pronouns. In very rare cases, however, where confusion or misunderstanding could be created, we shall have to use the appropriate personal pronouns.

But you will notice that Yugoslavs sometimes do use personal

pronouns even in normal sentences. This, strictly speaking, is both unnecessary and incorrect and is a practice largely due to the influence of foreign languages.

You will, however, have to use personal pronouns if you want to give special emphasis to that part of your statement, and also in cases of comparison or juxtaposition.

The normal statement of fact 'I am writing a letter' should be translated: 'Pišem pismo', and *not* 'Ja pišem pismo'. But if you want to say: 'It is I who am writing the letter,' the correct translation will be '**Ja** pišem pismo' and the 'ja' carries special emphasis.

Also in cases of juxtaposition or comparison, such as '**Ja** pišem pismo a **vi** čitate knjigu' (*I am writing a letter and you are reading a book*).

Note. It is of great importance to bear in mind that a statement like 'Pišem pismo' means both 'I write a letter' and 'I am writing the letter'. In both cases it actually means 'a letter' or 'the letter'—the context will always make it quite clear which of the two is meant.

PRESENT TENSE

Depending mostly on their infinitive endings, all verbs fall into several groups and are conjugated accordingly.

GROUP 1

Many verbs with an infinitive ending in -ati are conjugated as shown below.

Či'tati—to read

Singular

Čitam I read

čitaš you read

čita he (she, it) reads

Plural

či'tamo

či'tate

či'taju (*m., f., n.*)

Some other verbs belonging to this group: gle'dati (*to look*), i'mati (*have*), znati (*know*), pi'tati (*ask*), če'kati (*wait*), ču'vati (*guard*), ba'cati (*throw*), bi'rati (*choose, select, elect*), mo'rati (*to have to, must*), pa'dati (*fall*).

GROUP 2

Verbs ending in -sati or -zati. The 's' and 'z' of their final syllable change into 'š' and 'ž' respectively.

Pisati—*to write*

Singular	Plural
Pišem	pi'šemo
pišeš	pi'šete
piše	pišu

Some other verbs belonging to this group: di'sati (*to breathe*), bri'sati (*wipe, cancel*), boja'disati (*to paint, colour*).

Ka'zati—*to tell, say*

Singular	Plural
Kažem	ka'žemo
kažeš	ka'žete
kaže	kažu

Other verbs of the group: di'zati (*to lift*), ma'zati (*smear, spread*), ste'zati (*tighten*), li'zati (*lick*).

GROUP 3

Verbs ending in -sti. The 's' often changes according to the rules on assimilation of consonants given on page 6.

Tresti—*to shake*

Singular	Plural
Tresem	tre'semo
treseš	tre'sete
trese	tresu

Other verbs belonging to this group: plesti—pletem (*to knit, braid*), mesti—metem (*to sweep*), crpsti—crpem (*to draw, pump*), krasti—kradem (*to steal*), gristi—grizem (*to bite*).

GROUP 4

Most verbs ending in -cati or -kati, where both 'c' and 'k' change into 'č'.

Vikati—*to shout*

Singular	Plural
Vičem	vi'čemo
vičeš	vi'čete
viče	viču

Other verbs of the group: pla'kati—plačem (*to weep, cry*), po'ticati—po'tičem (*to stem, originate*), kli'cati—kličem (*to cheer*), mi'cati—mičem (*to move, displace*).

GROUP 5

Most verbs whose infinitive ending is -ći (instead of the much more usual -ti). In all such cases you will first have to establish how the final 'ć' changes.

Leći—*to lie down*

Singular

Plural

Legnem

leg'nemo

legneš

leg'nete

legne

legnu

Other verbs of the group: **steći**—**steknem** (*to acquire*), **reći**—**reknem** (*to say, tell*), **u'teći**—**u'teknem** (*to run away, flee*), **ići**—**idem** (*to go, walk*), **peći**—**pečem** (*bake*), **seći**—**sečem** (*cut*).

Here is the conjugation of 'moći' (*to be able to*), which is slightly irregular.

Moći—*to be able to*

Singular

Plural

Mogu

mo'žemo

možeš

mo'žete

može

mogu

Your attention is drawn to the first person singular and third person plural. They are identical, and both irregular.

GROUP 6

Most verbs ending in -iti and many ending in -eti belong to this group.

Misliti—*to think*

Singular

Plural

mislim

mis'limo

misliš

mis'lite

misli

misle

Some examples of verbs belonging to this group: **vo'liti**—**volim** (*to like, love*), **no'siti**—**nosim** (*wear, carry*), **mo'liti**—**molim** (*pray, beg*), **mr'zeti**—**mrzim** (*to hate*), **se'deti**—**sedim** (*to sit, be sitting*), **ku'piti**—**kupim** (*buy*), **le'teti**—**letim** (*fly*), **ba'cati**—**bacim** (*throw*), **pu'šiti**—**pušim** (*to smoke*).

NEGATIVE PRESENT TENSE

The negative present tense is formed with the help of the negative particle 'ne' (which, incidentally, means both 'not' and 'no'). It

immediately precedes the verb, so the negative present tense of 'či'tati' is: ne čitam, ne čitaš, ne čita; ne či'tamo, ne či'tate, ne či'taju.

If a personal pronoun is used (or for that matter any other word or words—normally serving as the subject), the negative particle 'ne' still immediately precedes the verb: 'Ja ne čitam,' 'ti ne čitaš,' etc. 'Otac ne čita'; 'Moj otac ne čita'; 'Moj stari otac ne čita.'

Here now is a useful hint for those familiar with cockney English. The sentence 'Nobody never tells me nothing', if literally translated, is perfect Serbo-Croatian. Omitting any 'negative' from the sentence would make it grammatically wrong. The rule is simple: in a negative sentence use any negative word available. The sentence given above should be translated as follows: 'Niko meni ni'kada ništa ne kaže.'

INTERROGATIVE PRESENT TENSE

The same as in the case of 'biti', the interrogative of all other verbs is also formed with the help of 'da li' or 'zar' followed by the verb. The sentence with 'zar' carries again more emphasis. The normal interrogative present tense will be 'da li pitam, da li pita, da li pitamo', etc. If a personal pronoun or a noun is used, the word order will be 'da li ja pitam?'; 'da li oni pi'taju?', etc. Or 'Da li otac pita?'. If 'zar' is used, the same rules apply: 'Zar znaš, zar znamo?'; 'zar ja znam?'; 'zar u'čitelj zna?', etc.

In negative interrogative statements we again keep to the rule that 'ne' immediately precedes the verb. 'Da li ja ne moram, da li vi ne morate, da li oni ne mo'raju?', etc.

Note. The negative present tense of 'imati' is slightly different from that of other verbs. It even forms a special infinitive:

Nemati—*not to have*

Singular

nemam I have not

nemaš etc.

nema

Plural

ne'mamo

ne'mate

ne'maju

If a personal pronoun has to be used—for emphasis—the negative present tense is: ja nemam, ti nemaš, on nema, etc.

SENTENCES

Ja pišem pismo, a vi či'tate knjigu. Ko piše a ko čita? Pitam majku gde je otac. Moj u'čitelj čita knjige svaki dan. Zar on mora da čita? Ne mora, ali voli knjige. Danas pada kiša a ne sneg. Či'tamo

knjige samo kad mo'ramo. Da li i vi pi'šete pisma? Ne pi'šemo pisma, pi'šemo pesme. Zašto pu'šite kad znate da to nije dobro za vas? A zašto da ne pušim—jednog dana moram da umrem. Zašto pi'šete pismo u'čitelju, zašto ne pi'šete meni? Ovde je vrlo vruće, čovek ne može da diše. Moram bri'sati sto, vrlo je prljav. Mo'ramo da boja'dišemo našu kuću. Ne znam zašto uvek mo'rate da nešto boja'dišete. Ne mogu ništa da vam kažem, moram da go'vorim sa svojim ofici'rom. Zašto ovi rad'nici dižu stvari ru'kama? Tvoje lice je čisto kao da ga je mačka li'zala. Zašto se tre'sete, ne tražim od vas ništa. Ko plete ovaj džemper? Mislim da ga plete moja sestra, ona voli da plete. Onaj ko krade ni'kada ništa nema. Gospo'dine, da li mogu sada da metem vašu sobu? Ne ću da idem u vaše dvo'rište, jer vaš pas grize. Zašto vi'čete, ja vrlo dobro čujem. Danas moram da legnem rano, jer sutra u jutro idem u šumu sa svojim prij'ateljima. Ovo su moje knjige, ne smeš da ih mičeš. Nemam raz'loga da kličem tom čoveku. Idem u grad sada, jer ne mogu da idem sutra. S ovim nožem ne mogu da sečem ni hleb. Zar mis'lite da imam vre'mena za takve glupe stvari? Volim da pijem vino, ali nemam no'vaca za to. Zašto sediš kod kuće celi dan? Kad ima no'vaca puši skupe ciga're, a kad nema, onda puši jev'tine cigare'te. Da li ja nju volim ili ne, to nije važno, gospo'dine; važno je samo to da je ona moja žena! Ako ne mogu da pušim ciga're i pijem vino—šta onda vredi život?

TRANSLATION

I am writing a letter and you are reading a book. Who is writing and who reading? I am asking mother where my father is. My teacher reads books every day. Does he have to read? He does not have to, but he likes books. It is raining today, it is not snowing. We read books only when we have to. Do you, too, write letters? We don't write letters, we write poems. Why do you smoke when you know it is not good for you? And why should I not smoke—some day I have to die. Why are you writing the letter to your schoolmaster, why not to me? It is very hot here, one cannot breathe. I have to wipe the table, it is very dirty. We have to paint our house. I don't know why you always have to paint something or other. I cannot tell you anything, I have to talk to my officer. Why do these workmen lift things with their hands? Your face is as clean as if the cat had licked it. Why are you trembling—I am not asking anything from you. Who is knitting this jumper? I think my sister is knitting it, she likes knitting. He who steals never has anything. May I sweep

your room now, sir? I don't want to go to your yard, your dog bites. Why are you shouting, I can hear very well. I have to go to bed early today, because I am going to the forest with my friends tomorrow morning. These are my books, you must not move them. I have no reason to cheer this man. I am going to town now, because I cannot go tomorrow. I cannot cut even bread with this knife. Do you really think I have time for such silly things? I like to drink wine, but I have no money for it. Why do you sit at home all day? When he has money he smokes expensive cigars and when he has not, he smokes cheap cigarettes. Whether I like her or not, sir, that is not important; the only thing that is important is that she is my wife! If I cannot smoke cigars and drink wine—what is the use of life then?

VOCABULARY

svaki, a, o each; every

kiša rain

sneg snow

pa'dati to fall

pesma song, poem

u'mreti to die

skupi, a, o expensive

jev'tini, a, o cheap

vrući, a, e hot

prljavi, a, o dirty

mačka cat

džemper jumper, cardigan

razlog reason

glupi, a, o silly, stupid

važni, a, o important

vre'deti to be of value

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

The teacher is writing a letter. I don't think he is writing a letter, I think it is a book he is writing. Why do you smoke? I smoke simply because I like smoking ('because I like to smoke'). Does your sister write poems? No, she doesn't even read them. Why can't you go to town today? I don't want to go to town today, because I think (that) my wife is there. Are the workmen in the town? No, they are in the village today. Who is shouting in the street? It must be my brother, for he always shouts. My sister wants to sweep the room. Madame, what is your daughter doing now? I don't know, but I think (that) she is reading your letter. I must go into his courtyard, because I want to talk to him (with him). Do you always have to go to bed so early? No, only if I have to get up early in the morning. When my wife is at home, she always knits something. Why are you shouting, do you think I can't hear you? Our soldiers never go to town, they always do something in the village. Are you

saying, sir, that my house is dirty? I don't know where my books are, but I (can) see that they are not on the table. I like to read books only when I don't have to. When I have a lot (mnogo) of money, I drink wine; when I have only a little (malo), I drink beer.

PERFECT TENSE

This is a compound tense, consisting of an auxiliary verb and a past participle (active) of the verb itself.

It is the enclitic present tense of 'biti' that serves as auxiliary for the past tense of all verbs.

The past participle (active) is normally formed from the infinitive; its ending -ti is dropped and replaced by -o, -la, -lo for the three genders in the singular and by -li, -le, -la in the plural. If we take the verb 'či'tati', we first drop -ti and are left with 'čita-' (called the infinitive stem), to which we add the above given suffixes and receive the past participles: 'či'tao, či'tala, či'talo; či'tali, či'tale, či'tala.'

In the case of verbs ending in -sti or -ći no clean-cut rules can be given and you will have to consult the List of Verbs (page 80 ff.) or a dictionary.

The Perfect tense has a full form consisting of the personal pronoun, the auxiliary verb and the past participle of the verb conjugated.

The enclitic form drops the personal pronoun, it starts with the past participle which is followed by the auxiliary verb. It is used whenever there is no stress on the personal pronoun and the rules given for 'biti' equally apply to all other verbs.

You will find below the patterns of these conjugations for the verb 'či'tati' (*to read*). No further examples are given here since all verbs conform with this one. You will still have to watch out for the right form of the past participle, which you can find in the List of Verbs (page 80 ff.) or in an appropriate dictionary.

Či'tati—to read

FULL FORM

Singular

Ja sam či'tao (či'tala)

ti si či'tao (či'tala)

on je či'tao

ona je či'tala

ono je či'talo

Plural

mi smo či'tali (či'tale)

vi ste či'tali (či'tale)

oni su či'tali

one su či'tale

ona su či'tala

ENCLITIC FORM

Singular	Plural
či'tao (či'tala) sam	Či'tali (či'tale) smo
či'tao (či'tala) si	či'tali (či'tale) ste
či'tao je	či'tali su
či'tala je	či'tale su
či'talo je	či'tala su

The personal pronoun (ja, ti, etc.) will be dropped if there is any other word (noun, adjective, pronoun) serving as subject. 'Gospo'din je či'tao; Moja sestra je či'tala; Moj stari pri'jatelj je či'tao'; (*The gentleman was reading; My sister was reading; My old friend was reading*). In other words, the sentence is built the same way as in English.

NEGATIVE PERFECT TENSE

Singular	Plural
(Ja) nisam či'tao (či'tala)	(mi) nismo či'tali (či'tale)
(ti) nisi či'tao (či'tala)	(vi) niste či'tali (či'tale)
(on) nije či'tao	(oni) nisu či'tali
(ona) nije či'tala	(one) nisu či'tale
(ono) nije či'talo	(ona) nisu či'tala

The personal pronouns are used only for special emphasis of the statement. No enclitic form of the negative Perfect tense exists.

INTERROGATIVE PAST TENSE

The interrogative particles 'da li' or 'zar' again introduce the statement and, normally, no personal pronouns are used. If you want to use them for greater emphasis, the pronouns follow the enclitic auxiliary verb.

Singular	Plural
Da li sam (ja) či'tao (či'tala)?	Da li smo (mi) či'tali (či'tale)?
da li si (ti) či'tao (či'tala)?	da li ste (vi) či'tali (či'tale)?
da li je (on) či'tao?	da li su (oni) či'tali?
da li je (ona) či'tala?	da li su (one) či'tale?
da li je (ono) či'talo?	da li su (ona) či'tala?

If, instead of personal pronouns you have to use nouns, other

pronouns, or adjectives, they occupy the same place as personal pronouns in the above example. 'Da li je tvoj prijatelj čitao knjigu?' (*Has your friend read the book?*); 'Da li je ovaj stari gospo'din vaš otac?' (*Is this old gentleman your father?*).

INTERROGATIVE NEGATIVE PAST TENSE

Singular

Plural

Da li (ja) nisam čitao (čitala)? da li (mi) nismo čitali (čitale)?

da li (ti) nisi čitao (čitala)? da li (vi) niste čitali (čitale)?

da li (on) nije čitao? da li (oni) nisu čitali?

da li (ona) nije čitala? da li (one) nisu čitale?

da li (ono) nije čitalo? da li (ona) nisu čitala?

The personal pronouns (in brackets) will be used only for greater emphasis and if nouns, adjectives, and/or other pronouns are used, they take their place in the sentence: 'Da li stari gospo'din nije čitao knjigu?' (*Has the old gentleman not read the book?*).

SENTENCES

Jučer sam čitao knjigu, a večeras idem u pozorište. Zašto niste bili u pozorištu jučer? Nisam bio, jer sam čitao knjigu. Nisam bio u pozorištu jer nisam imao vremena. Da li ste videli novu kuću u našoj ulici? Da, video sam je i mislim da je vrlo lepa. Da li znate da sam sinoć pisao pisma? (*Note. The question is: Do you know?, not: did you know?*) Meo sam stan pa zato nisam mogao da idem u grad. Ko vam je kazao da sutra idem u Francusku? Jutros sam morao da legnem u krevet, jer sam bio bolestan. Deca su vikala i plakala pa nisam mogla da čitam. Zašto ste klicali go'vorniku, zar ste verovali nje'govim rečima? A zar vi niste? Moja žena je pekla kolače, pa nisam smeo da kažem ni reč. Jučer je se'kao travu u bašti, a danas je u'tekao. Išao sam u grad kad sam čuo da vi ne možete doći. Zar za'ista niste mogli da kažete ništa? Zašto niste vikali kad ste videli raz'bojнике? Hteo sam da zovem mili'ciju, ali sam se se'tio da niko ne može da me čuje. A zašto niste vikali su'sedima? Znao sam da su u pozorištu. Izvinite, gospo'dine, da li ste me zvali! Nisam vas zvao, Ma'rijo, ali pošto ste došli, možete os'tati. Zašto nisi odgovorila, A'nice, kad sam te jučer zvao preko telefo'na? Kako sam mogla da odgovorim, kad sam bila na koncertu sa Markom?

TRANSLATION

Yesterday I read a book and tonight I am going to the theatre. Why were you not at the theatre yesterday? I wasn't because I was reading a book. I wasn't at the theatre because I had no time. Have you seen the new house in our street? Yes I have and I think it is very nice. Did you know that I was writing letters yesterday? I was sweeping the flat and so I couldn't go to town. Who told you that I was travelling to France tomorrow? I had to lie down this morning because I was ill. The children were shouting and crying and I was unable to read. Why did you cheer the speaker, did you believe his words? Didn't you? My wife was baking cakes, so I couldn't say a word. He cut the grass yesterday and today he ran away. I was going to town when I heard that you could not come. Were you really unable to say anything? Why did you not shout when you saw the robbers? I wanted to call the militia (i.e. police) but I then remembered that nobody could hear me. And why did you not shout to your neighbours? I knew they were at the theatre. Did you call me, sir? No, I didn't, Mary, but since you have come you can stay. Why did you not reply, Annie, when I called you over the telephone? How could I have replied when I was at a concert with Mark?

VOCABULARY

jučer yesterday	u'teći, u'teknem, u'tekao escape,
veče'ras tonight	run away
sinoć last night	raz'bojnik robber, criminal
jutros this morning	čuti, čujem, čuo to hear
novi, a, o new	sused neighbour
kolač cake	mili'cija militia
trava grass	kon'cerat, koncert concert
pri'jatan (tna) pleasant agreeable	šuma wood, forest
ne'prijatan (tna) disagreeable	u'moran (rna) tired
srećan (ćna) happy, lucky	tele'fon the telephone
nes'rećan (ćna) unhappy, unlucky	telefoni'rati to telephone
ve'rovati, -rujem, -rovaó to believe	

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Were you at the cinema last night? No, I very seldom go to the cinema; whenever I can I go to the theatre. I was in a café with my

sister and saw your teacher who was there with his wife. Did you know I had been in Dubrovnik last year? No, I thought you had never been to Yugoslavia. Do you know why his wife has run away? No, but I always thought she would run away some day. Is he so unpleasant a man? No, but she was never happy with him. They speak very good English, but I can't understand them (Translate: They speak English very well). I saw the soldiers in the wood and they were very tired. I called you because I want you to write a letter to your brother now (Translate: I want that you write . . .). I had to ring him over the telephone because I was unable to write the letter I had promised him. I have no time to go to the park now, because I got up very late this morning.

FUTURE TENSE

This is another compound tense, consisting of an auxiliary and the infinitive of the verb conjugated.

The auxiliary is the enclitic present tense of 'hteti' (*to wish, want, desire*) as shown on page 41.

In the full form of the Future tense the word order is: personal pronoun, enclitic auxiliary verb, infinitive. If a noun, adjective, or a pronoun other than the personal pronoun are the subject of the sentence, the personal pronoun will be dropped—as shown in the section about the verb 'biti'.

In the enclitic form of the Future tense the personal pronoun is dropped. In Serbian the enclitic auxiliary verb is added to the infinitive stem of the verb conjugated—again as in the case of 'biti'. In Croatian, only the 'i' ending of the verb's infinitive is dropped and the auxiliary follows the remaining rump of the verb—but as a separate word. As mentioned in the corresponding section of the verb 'biti', this is one of the extremely rare cases of any difference between Serbian and Croatian grammar.

FULL FORM

Singular

Ja ću čiti'tati I shall read

ti ćeš čiti'tati etc.

on će čiti'tati

ona će čiti'tati

ono će čiti'tati

Plural

mi ćemo čiti'tati

vi ćete čiti'tati

oni će čiti'tati

one će čiti'tati

ona će čiti'tati

ENCLITIC FORM (Serbian version)

Singular	Plural
či'taću	či'taćemo
či'taćeš	či'taćete
či'taće	či'taće

ENCLITIC FORM (Croat version)

Singular	Plural
čitat ću	čitat ćemo
čitat ćeš	čitat ćete
čitat će	čitat će

Notes

1. The use of the full or enclitic forms of the Future tense is governed by the same rules as in the case of the Perfect tense.
2. Verbs ending in -sti drop only the -ti of their infinitive and form their enclitic Future tense as all other verbs, but the final 's' changes to 'š'. 'Plesti' (to knit) forms its Future tense as plešću, plešćeš, plešće; pleš'ćemo, pleš'ćete, plešće.
3. Instead of using the infinitive in the full form of the Future tense you can use the conjunction 'da' and the present tense. Ja ću da čitam, ti ćeš da čitaš, on će da čita; mi ćemo da čitamo, vi ćete da čitate, oni će da čitaju.

This form of Future tense has been gaining ground, especially in Serbia.

NEGATIVE FUTURE TENSE

Singular	Plural
(ja) ne ću či'tati	(mi) ne ćemo či'tati
(ti) ne ćeš či'tati	(vi) ne ćete či'tati
(on) ne će či'tati	(oni) ne će či'tati
(ona) ne će či'tati	(one) ne će či'tati
(ono) ne će čitati	(ona) ne će či'tati

Notes

1. The personal pronouns are used only for special emphasis; the statement can begin without them, since 'ne' is not enclitic.
2. An enclitic version of the negative Future tense does not exist.
3. The infinitive can again be replaced by 'da' followed by the present tense: (ja) ne ću da čitam, (ti) ne ćeš da čitaš, etc.

INTERROGATIVE FUTURE TENSE

The same general rules apply as in the case of the Past tense.

Singular

da li ću (ja) čit'ati?

da li ćeš (ti) čit'ati?

da li će (on) čit'ati?

da li će (ona) čit'ati?

da li će (ono) čit'ati?

Plural

da li ćemo (mi) čit'ati?

da li ćete (vi) čit'ati?

da li će (oni) čit'ati?

da li će (one) čit'ati?

da li će (ona) čit'ati?

INTERROGATIVE NEGATIVE FUTURE TENSE

Singular

da li (ja) ne ću čit'ati?

da li (ti) ne ćeš čit'ati?

da li (on) ne će čit'ati?

da li (ona) ne će čit'ati?

da li (ono) ne će čit'ati?

Plural

da li (mi) ne ćemo čit'ati?

da li (vi) ne ćete čit'ati?

da li (oni) ne će čit'ati?

da li (one) ne će čit'ati?

da li (ona) ne će čit'ati?

SENTENCES

Sutra ću čit'ati novu knjigu. Čit'aću vaše pismo, ali ne ću ništa pi'sati. Da li ćete mi ve'rovati da sam jučer bio u po'zorištu sa svojom ženom? Sutra ću vam ka'zati da li mogu da pu'tujem u Jugo'slaviju. Veče'ras ću leći u krevet oko 10 sati. Da li ćemo sutra ići u grad ili u selo? Zar ne ćete doći s nama u park? Gledat ću televi'ziju ili ću slu'shati ra'dio program. Ko će biti u šumi sutra popod'ne? Da li ćete zvati sve svoje su'sede kad bu'dete u novoj kući? Da li ona ne će govo'riti sa svojom decom? Zar će ona čit'ati no'vine, zar ne će on? Zar mu ne ćeš odgovo'riti na tako lepo pismo? Znat ću sutra da li će njen brat doći u grad. Govo'riću sa vašim bratom kad dodjem u grad. Da li ćete sutra biti kod kuće? Da, hoću.

TRANSLATION

I shall read a new book tomorrow. I shall read your letter, but I shan't write anything. Will you believe me that I was in the theatre yesterday with my wife? I shall tell you tomorrow whether I can travel to Yugoslavia. I shall go to bed at about 10 o'clock tonight. Shall we go to town or to the village tomorrow? Won't you come to the park with us? I shall watch television or listen to the radio programme. Who will be in the forest tomorrow? Will you invite all

your neighbours when you are in the new house? Won't she talk to her children? Will she read the paper, will not he? Won't you answer his nice letter? I shall know tomorrow whether her brother is coming to town. I shall talk to your brother when I come to town. Will you be at home tomorrow? Yes, I shall.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Will you write him today or tomorrow? I shall talk to his sister tomorrow when she comes to town. Do you really want to be a soldier? I shall not go to his house because I don't want him to come to mine. (Translate . . . 'because I don't want that he come . . .') He won't be in town today, but I shall see him at home tomorrow. Surely you won't travel to Yugoslavia by car? Don't you think she will be there? I shall go to the village whenever I know you will be there. Won't you buy your wife some flowers for the occasion? No, she has never bought me any flowers.

CONDITIONAL

The aorist of 'biti'—with slight modifications—serves as auxiliary verb in the same way as in the case of the verb 'biti'—see page 45.

The full conditional consists of the personal pronoun, the auxiliary and the past participle active of the verb conjugated—in that order.

In the enclitic conditional, the personal pronoun is dropped and the word order is: past participle, followed by the auxiliary verb.

The choice of full or enclitic form is governed by the same rules as in the case of the past or future tenses.

FULL FORM

Singular

Ja bih čī'tao (čī'tala) I should read

ti bi čī'tao (čitala) etc.

on bi čī'tao

ona bi čī'tala

ono bi čī'talo

Plural

mi bismo čī'tali (čī'tale)

vi biste čī'tali (čī'tale)

oni bi čī'tali

one bi čī'tale

ona bi čī'tala

Note. Unless there is a danger of obscurity or confusion, the first two persons plural are simplified to: **mi bi čī'tali** and **vi bi čī'tali**.

ENCLITIC FORM

Singular	Plural
čì'tao (čì'tala) bih	čì'tali (čì'tale) bismo
čì'tao (čì'tala) bi	čì'tali (čì'tale) biste
čì'tao bi	čì'tali bi
čì'tala bi	čì'tale bi
čì'talo bi	čì'tala bi

NEGATIVE CONDITIONAL

Singular	Plural
(ja) ne bih čì'tao (čì'tala)	(mi) ne bismo čì'tali (čì'tale)
(ti) ne bi čì'tao (čì'tala)	(vi) ne biste čì'tali (čì'tale)
(on) ne bi čì'tao	(oni) ne bi čì'tali
(ona) ne bi čì'tala	(one) ne bi čì'tale
(ono) ne bi čì'talo	(ona) ne bi čì'tala

INTERROGATIVE CONDITIONAL

Singular	Plural
da li bih (ja) čì'tao (čì'tala)?	da li bismo (mi) čì'tali (čì'tale)?
da li bi (ti) čì'tao (čì'tala)?	da li biste (vi) čì'tali (čì'tale)?
da li bi (on) čì'tao?	da li bi (oni) čì'tali?
da li bi (ona) čì'tala?	da li bi (one) čì'tale?
da li bi (ono) čì'talo?	da li bi (ona) čì'tala?

NEGATIVE INTERROGATIVE CONDITIONAL

Singular	Plural
da li (ja) ne bih čì'tao (čì'tala)?	da li (mi) ne bismo čì'tali (čì'tale)?
da li (ti) ne bi čì'tao (čì'tala)?	da li (vi) ne biste čì'tali (čì'tale)?
da li (on) ne bi čì'tao?	da li (oni) ne bi čì'tali?
da li (ona) ne bi čì'tala?	da li (one) ne bi čì'tale?
da li (ono) ne bi čì'talo?	da li (ona) ne bi čì'tala?

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

These fall into two main categories: real and unreal. A 'real' conditional sentence speaks of events, circumstances, actions that may have happened—or may still happen—and of consequences that may follow. 'Ako bi vi pi'sali pismo, ja bih čì'tao knjigu' (*If you were to write the letter, I'd read a book*). 'Ako bi vreme sutra

bito lepo, mogli bismo da i'demo u park' (*If the weather is fine tomorrow, we could go to the park*). As you can see, in contrast to English, the conditional is used here both in the main and in the secondary clauses.

In 'unreal' conditional sentences we speak of events that would have happened—or could still happen—if certain conditions were—or had been—given; but these conditions are not—or were not—given. In such sentences, the secondary clause is normally introduced with the conjunction 'da' and the verb is either in present or in the past tense—not in conditional. 'Da imam no'vaca i'šao bih u po'zorište' (*If I had money I'd go to the theatre*); 'Da sam i'mao vre'mena pi'sao bih vam pismo' (*Had I had time I should have written you a letter*). In both these sentences the condition is 'unreal': I have no money and am, therefore, unable to go to the theatre; I had no time and was, therefore, unable to write the letter.

Alternatively, the 'unreal' conditional sentences can be introduced with the conjunction 'kad' (instead of 'da'). In that case the conditional will have to be used both in the main and in the secondary clauses. 'Kad bih i'mao vre'mena, i'šao bih u grad' (*If I had time I'd go to town*). Here again the condition is unreal; I have no time so I can't go to town.

Sentences of the 'kad'-type serve only for the present tense and are anyhow much less in use than those introduced by 'da'.

SENTENCES

Ako biste došli s nama, mogli bismo ići u šumu. Ako bih znao da i'dete u Jugoslaviju, i ja bih i'šao s vama. Ako bih čuo da neko do'lazi, znao bih da to nisu raz'bojnici. Da sam u'moran ne bih mo'gao da radim. Kad bih mu ve'rovala da me voli bila bih vrlo srećna. Da i'dete u šumu čuli biste ptice kako pe'vaju. Da ima tele'fon u stanu mo'gao bih joj telefoni'rati. Da sam znao da ste u gradu pose'tio bih vas u ho'telu. Da mi je vaše društvo ne'priyatno, ne bih do'lazio k vama. Da sam jučer bio u bio'skopu ne bih i'šao danas. Da sam u'tekao iz za'tvora sada bih bio slo'bodan čovek. Da imam do'voljno novaca ne bih u'opšte ništa ra'dio.

TRANSLATION

If you came with us we could go to the forest. If I knew you were going to Yugoslavia I'd come with you. If I were to hear somebody coming I'd know they were not robbers. If I were tired I could not

work. If I believed him that he loved me I'd be very happy. If you went to the forest you'd hear the birds singing. If she had a telephone in her flat I could 'phone her. Had I known you were in town I'd have visited you in your hotel. If your company were unpleasant to me I would not be coming. Had I been in the cinema yesterday I would not go today. Had I escaped from prison I'd be a free man now. If I had enough money I would not work at all.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

If you wrote me a letter now I'd receive it tomorrow morning. If you came to the station before 8 o'clock, we could travel to town together. If you told me whose letter it is I wouldn't even try to read it. Had I known your brother was ill in hospital I would have gone to see him. If it were Sunday today, would I be working? If it hadn't been so late I would have gone to town to visit them. Had I known her mother, I would never have married her. Do you think I would have turned on the light had it not been so dark in the room? I would have started studying Serbo-Croat last year, had I not been ill. I wouldn't even think of going to Yugoslavia if I didn't speak the language. Yes, *and* if you hadn't met that young girl on the beach of Dubrovnik last year. I wouldn't lend you the money even if I had it.

IMPERATIVE

There are two sets of endings for the Imperative.

(a)	Singular	Plural
	—	-jmo
	-j	-jte
	neka + present tense	neka + present tense
(b)	Singular	Plural
	—	-imo
	-i	-ite
	neka + present tense	neka + present tense

The endings given under (a) apply to all verbs ending in -ju in the third person plural of their present tense.

All other verbs (i.e. the great majority of verbs) use the endings given under (b).

Examples:

(a)

—

čitaj! read!

neka čita! let him (her, it) read!

či'tajmo! let us read!

či'tajte! read!

neka či'taju! let them read! (*m., f., n.*)

These endings apply to all verbs ending in -ovati, to most ending in -ivati, to some ending in -ati and to a few ending in -iti. Here are a few examples (giving the infinitive, the third person plural of the present tense, and the second person singular imperative): či'tati—či'taju—čitaj!; znati—znaju, znaj!; gle'dati, gle'daju, gledaj!; piti, piju, pij!; miti, miju, mij!

(b)

—

misli! think!

neka misli! let him (her, it) think!

mis'limo! let us think!

mis'lite! think!

neka misle! let them think! (*m., f., n.*)

These endings are added to the present tense stem, i.e. to the third person plural of the present tense, from which the final vowel has been dropped.

Govo'riti, go'vore, govo'ri!; pi'sati, pišu, piši!; di'sati, dišu, diši; ka'zati, kažu, kaži!; tresti, tresu, tresi!; ici, idu, idi!; mis'liti, misle, misli!; se'deti, sede, sedi! pu'šiti, puše, puši!

NEGATIVE IMPERATIVE

	Singular	Plural
(a)	—	ne či'tajmo!
	ne čitaj!	ne či'tajte!
	neka ne čita!	neka ne či'taju!
(b)	—	ne mis'limo!
	ne misli!	ne mis'lite!
	neka ne misli!	neka ne misle!

There is an alternative for the negative imperative, formed from 'nemoj, ne'mojmo, ne'mojte' (which means "don't"), followed by

the infinitive (or by 'da' and the present tense). It is applicable to all verbs.

—	ne'mojmo či'tati (da či'tamo)!
nemoj či'tati (or nemoj da čitaš)!	ne'mojte či'tati (da či'tate)
neka ne čita!	neka ne či'taju

Its meaning is slightly more that of dissuasion, rather than prohibition.

SENTENCES

Piši mu danas, nemoj če'kati do sutra! Čitaj moju knjigu, ali nemoj da čitaš moja pisma! Mis'lite pre nego što go'vorite! Govo'rite s mojom sestrom ako ho'ćete! Ne'mojmo da i'demo u grad, ako ne mo'ramo! Ne mis'lite da je on tako glup! Neka ne misle da sve znaju! Puši ako moraš, ali nemoj pu'šiti u mojem stanu! Ne misli da si naj'pametniji na svetu! Ne teraj kola tako brzo! Ne pi'tajte me kako se o'sećam! Gle'dajte na drugu stranu i ne'mojte da govo'rite s njima!

TRANSLATION

Write him today, don't wait until tomorrow! Read my book, but don't read my letters! Think before you speak! Talk to my sister if you want to! Don't let us go to town unless we have to! Don't think he is so silly! Don't let them think they know everything! Smoke if you have to, but don't smoke in my flat! Don't think you are the most intelligent (man) in the world! Don't drive the car so fast! Don't ask me how I feel! Look to the other side and don't talk to them!

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Go to London and see whether (da li) your friend is there! Read his letter, don't you think he is mad (lud)? Tell my wife that I shall work at the office all night (celu noć)! Don't talk such nonsense, she won't believe me! Let us tell them now that we will not come tomorrow! If you can't travel by car, sir, don't travel at all! Don't go to that house, the man is always drunk and his wife is mad! Sit down on this chair, smoke and drink and let's wait for him! Write him a letter now or let's phone him tomorrow morning!

SPECIAL RULES FOR THE VERB 'IMATI'

1. The object of a sentence introduced by 'imati' is in the accusative (singular or plural). *Imam brata i sestru (I have a brother and a sister); I'mamo kuće i bašte (We have houses and gardens).*
2. If the object introduced by 'imati' is 'matter', it will have to be in the genitive. *Dok imam hleba i vode mogu da živim (As long as I have bread and water, I can live); Da li i'mate mesa i po'vrća? (Do you have meat and vegetables?).*
3. If the object introduced by i'mati is 'matter' referred to earlier on in the conversation, or matter for a specified purpose (say the amount of money or material meant for a certain purpose, work, job, etc.), it will have to be in the accusative (singular or plural): *I'mamo šećer i brašno, pa možemo da is'pečemo kolač (We have the sugar and flour so we can bake the cake); Ako i'mate cigle i pesak, zašto ne sa'gradite kuću? (If you have the bricks and sand, why don't you build the house?).*
4. Ne'mati (not to have), the only verb with a negative infinitive, governs the genitive (singular or plural): *Ne'mamo ni vre'mena ni no'vaca za takve stvari (We have neither time nor money for such things).*
5. Here now is a very specific warning! The phrase 'I have time' or 'I have the time' is translated only as '**Imam vre'mena**'.
6. 'Ima' in the sense of 'there is' governs the following cases:
 - (a) Nominative singular for one person or object: *U našoj školi ima samo jedan u'čitelj (There is only one teacher at our school).*
 - (b) Genitive singular for 'matter': *Kod nas ima i vode i sunca (There is both water and sun at our place).*
 - (c) Genitive plural for several persons or objects: *U Beo'gradu ima de'vojaka i deča'ka koji go'vore od'lično en'gleski (There are girls and boys in Belgrade that speak excellent English). U našem selu ima starih kuća ali nema novih (There are old houses in our village but there are no new ones).*
 - (d) In all tenses other than present, the 'ima' in the sense of 'there is' or 'there are' has to be replaced by 'biti' in the appropriate tense; this, however, is followed by the same cases as 'ima' is followed in the present tense: *Kod nas je bilo i vode i sunca; U Beo'gradu će biti de'vojaka i deča'ka; I'mali bi cigle i pesak ali ne bismo imali no'vaca.*

SENTENCES

I'mao sam dve kuće u gradu, ali sada nemam ni jedne. Ne mogu da se setim da li ima brata ili sestru. Bu'dući da nemam no'vaca, ne mogu da vodim svoju prijate'ljicu na more. Zar za'ista ne'mate vre'mena ili prosto ne že'lte da i'dete s nama? Kao što znate, i'mamo i ljude i materi'jal, a ipak ne mo'žemo da u'radimo ništa. Govo'rili ste da i'mate novac, zašto onda niste ot'putovali za Fran'cusku? Ako ne'mate volje, zašto onda i'dete u bi'oskop? Imam vre'mena a ipak ne mogu ništa da u'radim. U našem selu ima samo jedan čovek koji me ni'kada ne po'zdravlja. Kod nas ima lepog vre'mena, ali nema dobrog ho'tela. Da li u vašem ho'telu ima slo'bodnih soba? U Jugo'slaviji je bilo lepo vreme, a u su'sednoj I'taliji je bes'nela bura. Da li će biti mnogo ljudi na ve'čeri? Ne bismo i'mali dobrih vojni'ka da ne'mamo is'kusnih ofici'ra.

TRANSLATION

I had two houses but now I don't have even one. I can't remember whether he has a brother or a sister. Since I have no money, I cannot take my girl friend to the sea. Do you really have no time or do you simply not want to go with us? As you know, we have the men and the material and yet we are unable to do anything. You were saying you had the money, why didn't you then go off to France? If you have no desire for it, why do you go to the cinema? I have the time and yet am unable to do anything. There is only one man in our village that never greets me. There is good weather at our place but we have no good hotel. Are there any free rooms in your hotel? There was fine weather in Yugoslavia while a storm was raging in neighbouring Italy. Will there be many people at dinner? We would not have good soldiers if we didn't have experienced officers.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

How many girl friends did you say you had? If you have the time, let's go to your brother's. I know you have no money today, but will you have any tomorrow? Even if I had time and money, I wouldn't go to such an expensive country. There was a girl in our school that never spoke a word to any of the pupils. Since you have all these books, do you ever find time to visit your friends? If I didn't like you I wouldn't even think of writing such a long letter to

you. I do have many books but don't forget that I never have the time to read them. Is it true there are no cinemas in your village? Well, there is one cinema, but it always shows old films so nobody ever enters it. Have you no love for her? Candidly, I hate her.

REFLEXIVE VERBS

Quite a number of verbs that are transitive in English are reflexive in Serbo-Croatian and they are always used with the reflexive particle 'se'. While transitive verbs govern the accusative, reflexive verbs govern mostly the genitive or dative, sometimes the instrumental. Here are a few verbs governing the genitive: *bo'jati se* (*to be afraid of . . .*); *i'grati se* (*to play a game*); *sti'deti se* (*to be ashamed of . . .*). Governing the dative: *na'dati se* (*to hope for*); *ču'diti se* (*to wonder at . . .*); *sme'jati se* (*to laugh at . . .*). Governing the instrumental: *sva'dati se sa* (*to quarrel with*); *i'grati se sa* (*play with something or somebody*).

In some cases the addition of 'se' makes a transitive verb reflexive: *Vra'titi* (*to return—an object*); *vra'titi se* (*to return, to come back*); *Spre'miti* (*to prepare somebody or something*); *spre'miti se* (*to make oneself ready*).

And, finally, there are verbs where the addition of 'se' gives normal, transitive verbs the meaning of an action carried out mutually by two or several subjects. *Lju'biti se* (*to exchange kisses*); *tući se* (*to exchange blows*); *dogovo'riti se* (*to agree on something*). Verbs of this last group are also called 'mutual-reflexive'.

We are giving below the main tenses of reflexive verbs—in full and enclitic version—in the first person singular only, since it is easy to form the other persons on the same pattern:

Na'dati se—to hope

Present tense: **Ja se nadam. Nadam se.**

Perfect tense: **Ja sam se na'dao. Na'dao sam se.**

Future tense: **Ja ću se na'dati. Na'daću se.**

Conditional: **Ja bih se na'dao. Na'dao bih se.**

Imperative: **Nadaj se!**

SENTENCES

Nadam se da ćete sutra doći. Ig'rao sam se sa decom. Sti'dela se što je sama na u'lici. Sme'jali smo se čim smo ih vi'deli. On se

svađa sa ženom samo zato što nema drugog posla. Ništa mu se ne čuđim jer znam da je uvek bio takav. Vra'tio bih se sutra kad bih mo'gao. Znam da se uvek brzo spremiš za kafa'nu ili po'zorište. Lju'bili su se kao da su sami u tom parku. Dogovo'rićemo se sutra da li da pu'tujemo ove go'dine sa že'nama ili sami. Uvek se tuku, ali se lako po'mire. Kad se to de'silo? Zar je is'tina da se u'bio vašom puškom? U'mijte se pre do'ručka! Gde se ku'pate—kod kuće ili u moru?

TRANSLATION

I hope you'll come tomorrow. I played with the children. She was ashamed to be in the street on her own. We laughed as soon as we saw them. He quarrels with his wife only because he has nothing else to do. I am not surprised at him at all, because I know that he has always been like that. I'd return tomorrow if I could. I know you always get ready quickly for the café or the theatre. They exchanged kisses as if they were alone in the park. We shall discuss tomorrow whether to travel with our wives or on our own. They always fight but they make it up easily. When did it happen? Is it true that he killed himself with your rifle? Wash before breakfast! Where do you bathe, at home or in the sea?

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Get ready, please, and let's go to the theatre! Why don't you agree now whether to travel by car or by train? Do you really have to fight every day as if you were children? I hope you have found your books. You'll be ashamed of your own words when you remember what you told me. A terrible thing has happened, sir, and I hope you will know what to do now. If we meet after the cinema, we can return home together. Let's hope they have returned by now!

VERBAL ASPECTS

Almost all Serbo-Croatian verbs belong to one of two categories called aspects: they are either 'imperfective' (I) or 'perfective' (P).

Imperfective verbs denote an action—or state of affairs—lasting over a longer period, while perfective verbs speak of momentary actions. In Serbo-Croat these aspects used to be called: *trajni* (durative) and *tre'nutni* (momentary) although nowadays the terms

‘svr’šeni’ and ‘ne’svršeni’ prevail. Verbs of either aspect have their infinitive, present and past tenses as well as their conditional.

“Čitam knjigu” (*I’m reading a book*) is an action that is progressing now and will take a certain time. It is not a momentary action, nor are we stating whether or when it will be completed. If you say: “Či’tao sam knjigu” or “Či’taću knjigu”, the aspect remains the same: the action did—or will—take place, it did—or will—take a certain time and you are not stating whether it was—or will be—carried to completion.

Statements like: “Pišem pismo” (*I’m writing a letter*), ležim u kre’vetu (*I’m lying in bed*), belong to the same category. All these actions go on for a certain time and in our statements we are not concerned with their past, present, or future completion or otherwise. All these verbs, therefore, belong to the category of ‘imperfective’ (I) verbs.

But you can make other statements about actions performed and completed in the past or present, or to be completed in the future. “Pro’čitao sam knjigu” (*I have read the book*) means that you have completed the reading—the verb here is ‘perfective’ (P). “Ako po’gledaš kroz prozor vi’dećeš da je vreme lepo” (*If you look out of the window you’ll see the weather is fine*); “Od’ležao sam dva sata u krevetu” (*I spent two hours lying in bed*); “Doći ću čim na’pišem pismo” (*I’ll come as soon as I have written the letter*). All these actions are—were or will be—completed, carried to their conclusion, and the verbs are ‘perfective’ (P).

The imperfective verbs quoted here were: pi’sati, le’žati, čit’ati. Their corresponding perfective ‘pairs’ were: napi’sati, od’ležati, and pro’čitati. As you can see, they were formed from their corresponding imperfective pairs by using certain prepositions as prefixes. Usually there are two or three prepositions you can use as prefix for turning an imperfective verb into its perfective pair—and the meanings of the newly created perfective verbs can often be guessed. “Govo’riti” (I) can be turned into “od’govoriti” (*to reply, answer*), “na’govoriti” (*to persuade*), etc. “Gra’diti” (*to build*) (I) can be turned into “pregra’diti” (*to fence off*). But sometimes the sense of the newly-formed verb is quite different from the original. “Nagra’diti”, for instance, means to reward! It is advisable, therefore, always to make sure, first, whether a possible derivative verb actually exists and, if so, what its meaning is.

In the case of just a few verbs, the number of verbs derived in this

way can be very great. The verb *pi'sati* (*to write*), which is imperfective, can be turned into: *napi'sati* (*to write down*); *zapi'sati* (*to enter, say, into a book*); *opi'sati* (*to describe*); *potpi'sati* (*to sign*); *popi'sati* (*to list*); *prepi'sati* (*to copy*), *upisati* (*to enter*). And most of these derivatives, which are all perfective, can be turned into corresponding imperfective verbs: *Zapisivati*, *opisivati*, *potpisivati*, *popisivati*, *prepisivati*, *upisivati*. (Incidentally, no such verb as *'napisivati'* exists.)

There are also verbs—not very numerous—that have two basic forms—imperfective and perfective—slightly differing but *not derived* from each other. “*Ba'cati*” (*to throw*) (I) and “*ba'citi*” (P) (same meaning)—the first of them imperfective, the second perfective. “*Di'zati*” (I) (*to lift*) and “*dig'nuti*” or “*dići*” (P); “*Kre'tati*” (I) (*to move*) and “*kre'nuti*”; “*pla'cati*” (I) (*to pay*) and “*pla'titi*”; “*le'žati*” (I) (*to be lying down*) and “*leći*” (*to lie down*); “*Plju'vati*” (I) (*to spit*) and “*plju'nuti*”.

Finally, there are also a few verbs that belong to both categories, i.e. they are both perfective and imperfective. “*Vi'deti*” (*to see*); *čuti* (*hear*); *ru'čati* (*to lunch*); *ve'čerati* (*to dine*); *boja'disati* (*to paint*). These verbs can be used either for perfective or for imperfective sentences. “*Vidim vi'soku kuću*” (*I can see a tall house*—the verb here is imperfective). “*Čim vidim vašeg brata, reći ću mu da ste kod kuće*” (*As soon as I see your brother I'll tell him you are at home*—the same verb here is perfective).

All this may look rather complicated, but a lot can be cleared up by steady practice. The best way of coping with it may be to look up verbs in the list given on page 80 ff. and try to memorize as much of it as possible. The rest will have to be left to steady practice.

IMPERFECT AND AORIST

In addition to the Perfect tense which is almost invariably used for actions carried out in the past, there are two more past tenses that can be used, although in reality they very seldom are.

They are the Imperfect and the Aorist. We are outlining them here but do not consider it necessary that you should do more than acquaint yourself with them so as to recognize them if by any chance you come across them.

IMPERFECT

This tense should be used for verbs of 'imperfective' aspect only. The endings are: -ah, -aše; aše; -asmo, -aste, -ahu. For some verbs the endings are preceded by 'j'. Here are some examples:

Gledah, gle'daše, gle'daše; gle'dasmo, gle'daste, gle'dahu.

Vo'zjah, vo'zijaše, vo'zijaše; vo'zijasmo, vo'zijaste, vo'zijahu.

AORIST

Applicable to 'perfective' aspect verbs only. This tense is used very occasionally only; it sometimes serves people as a means of enlivening a longish story, when the more sedate Perfect tense will here and there be replaced by the livelier Aorist.

The endings are: -h (first person singular); no ending for the second and third persons singular; the plural endings are: -smo, -ste, -še.

Examples: po'gledah, po'gleda, po'gleda; po'gledasmo, po'gledaste, po'gledaše. O'pazih, o'pazi, o'pazi; o'pazismo, o'paziste, o'paziše.

PARTICIPLES AND GERUNDIVES

The *Present participle* (or Present gerundive) is formed from the third person plural of the present tense, to which the syllable -ći is added. It applies only to 'imperfective' verbs: Znati, znaju—zna'jući; vi'deti, vide—videći; pi'sati, pišu—pi'šući. It corresponds to the English present gerundive ending in -ing (knowing, seeing, writing), but differs from it in one important respect: since it is indeclinable, it can refer to the subject of the sentence or clause only: Zna'jući da niste kod kuće nisam ni ja do'šao (*Knowing you were not*

at home I didn't come either); Do'šao sam u kafa'nu vi'deći da ste vi ovde (*I came to the café seeing that you were here*); Bio sam kod kuće pi'šući pisma (*I was at home writing letters*).

The *Past gerundive* is formed from 'perfective' verbs. The final 'o' is dropped from their active past participle and replaced by -vši: Po'gledati, po'gledao—po'gledavši; stići, sti'gao—sti'gavši; sa'znati, sa'znao—sa'znavši. (An obsolete alternative of the -vši ending was simply -v, so that the above given past gerundive could also be po'gledav, stigav and saznava; you may still come across such forms very occasionally.) Po'gledavši kroz prozor vi'deo sam vašeg brata (*Having looked out of the window I saw your brother*); Sti'gavši kući le'gao sam u krevet (*Having arrived home I went to bed*); Sa'znavši da je tako kasno o'tišao sam kući (*Having found out it was so late I went home*).

Note. In spite of the above rules, some Present participles are declined in practice and the following definitely can be declined: idući (*the next*); sledeći (*the next*) and budući (*the future*). Also the Past gerundive 'bivši' (*the former*) is declined.

VERBAL NOUNS

These are formed either from the present tense stem or from the infinitive stem, by adding to them the syllable -nje. They should, in principle, be formed from 'imperfective' verbs only, although just here and there a noun of this category is derived from a 'perfective' verb. Gle'dati—gle'danje; znati—znanje; pi'sati—pi'sanje.

DEFICIENT VERBS

Both in its meaning and use, 'tre'bati' is similar to the English 'ought to'; it is even more similar to the French construction: "il faut que je . . ."

Whether the subject is in singular or plural, the verb "treba" itself remains in the third person singular in all tenses.

Treba da idem u grad (*I ought to go to town*). Also: treba da ideš, treba da i'demo, treba da idu. In other tenses: Tre'balo je da pišem; trebalo je da či'tate. Tre'baće da govo'rite, da govo'rimo; tre'balo bi da slu'šate, etc.

But the verb can also be used in the sense of 'to be in need—of somebody or something'. In that sense, the verb takes on the appropriate 'person', while the subject is in dative. Trebaš mi ti a ne

tvoj brat (*I want you, not your brother*); Tre'balo mi je više vre'mena (*I was in need of more time*); Tre'baće mi vaša pomoć (*I'll have to have your help*); Tre'bala bi mi nji'hova pamet (*I'd need their brain*).

The verb 'mo'rati' is primarily used in the normal way—for all persons, in all tenses: Moram da idem kući (*I have to go home*); Ne mo'rate da mi pišete danas (*You don't have to write me today*); Mo'rali smo da o'stanemo kod kuće (*We had to stay at home*); Mo'rali bi sada da dodju (*They'd have to come now*).

But the third person singular of the present tense (mora) also serves to express an assumption, an assessment, or even a guess—and as such it serves for all persons of the present or past tenses: Mora da si bogat čovek (*You must be a rich man*); Mora da ste spa'vali naj'manje dva sata (*You must have slept for two hours at least*); Mora da su bili u gradu (*They must have been in town*).

One word of warning. In English the expression 'I must not' has shed the underlying idea of obligation and means simply 'I am not allowed to'; so the negative of 'I must' has to be expressed in some other way such as 'I am not obliged to', 'it is not incumbent upon me to', etc. In Serbo-Croat, however, "ne moram" is just the negative of "moram", while "I must not" is translated with "ne smem". The infinitive of the latter is "smeti" and it is conjugated in all respects as a normal verb. "Moram da pišem pismo" (*I must write a letter*); "Ne moram da idem u grad" (*I don't have to go to town*); "Ne smem da idem u bi'oskop" (*I mustn't go to the cinema*).

SEQUENCE OF TENSES

The main thing to know about this subject is that there is no such thing as a special Sequence of Tenses in Serbo-Croat. This means that the Serbo-Croat verb, unlike its English equivalent, preserves the same tense in reported speech as it uses in direct speech.

To make quite sure what is meant by this, let's first take a quick glance at the rules and prevailing practice in English.

It is, of course, correct to say 'I know he is a rich man'. But it would not be correct English if you said: 'I knew he *is* a rich man'; it would have to be: 'I knew he *was* a rich man.' Instead of saying: 'I thought he has been in Yugoslavia these last two years' you have to say: 'I thought he *had been* in Yugoslavia these last two years.' It would be just as wrong to say: 'I told you he will come,' instead of which you have to put it: 'I told you he *would* come.'

When forming your Serbo-Croat sentences, all you have to do is to forget the rules of the English Sequence of Tenses. You will then use verbs in their 'genuine' tenses, as you would do even in English if these special rules did not exist.

In the sentences that follow you will be able to see how this works out in practice. Try and form more Serbo-Croatian sentences of a similar pattern and, before long, you will be able to select the right tenses for your Serbo-Croatian verbs without much difficulty.

If it can be of any consolation to you, it is, in fact, much more difficult for a foreigner to get used to the 'queer' ways dictated by the Sequence of Tenses in English, than it is usually for the average English person to shed his grammatical habits and go over to what seems much more 'logical and natural' to the non-English.

SENTENCES

Mis'lio sam da ste Englez a ne Amerika'nac. Nisam znao da ćete doći u Pariz. Čuo sam da je njegov brat pro'fesor. Mis'lila sam da će i oni doći. Čuo sam da ima ve'liku kuću na vi'sokom bregu. Re'kao mi je da ne može doći danas, ali da će si'gurno doći sutra. Da sam znao da vaša žena nije kod kuće, ne bih do'shao. Zašto niste telefoni'rali da ne do'lazite vozom? Kome ste rekli da ćete ići u po'zorište? Mis'lio sam da ste u gradu, a ne na selu. Znao sam da vaš brat nema no'vaca, ali sam uvek mis'lio da je nje'gova žena vrlo bo'gata. Zar niste znali da će selja'ci biti na po'ljima? Ko vam je re'kao da je moj brat na univerzite'tu?

TRANSLATION

I thought you were an Englishman, not an American. I didn't know you would come to Paris. I heard his brother was a professor. I thought they, too, would come. I heard he had a large house on a high mountain. He told me he could not come today but would certainly come tomorrow. Had I known your wife was not at home, I would not have come. Why didn't you telephone you were not coming by train? Who did you tell you were going to the theatre? I thought you were in town, not in the village. I knew your brother had no money, but I always thought his wife was very rich. Didn't you know the peasants would be in the fields? Who told you my brother was at the university?

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

I thought you were at home. Hadn't I told you I was going to the village? I knew she would die if she didn't go to the hospital. Did you think our neighbours would be with our friends? I'm sitting at the café only because my wife said you would be here. Did you not know all your friends had gone to the park? My teacher said we had to be at school at 8 o'clock in the morning. I always thought you were a clever boy, but I see now you are not. I knew you were at home but I didn't think your sister would be too. I told them we had to go to town and asked them whether they would come with us. Did you think it was too early to come? I thought I could run away if I heard any robbers. Did you tell your friends I had gone home? Nobody thought at the time you would ever return home. Why did nobody tell me you were ill? Did you not know we were at Dubrovnik before you had come? I had lived in London for many weeks before I was able to say one word in English.

THE PASSIVE

Certain grammarians maintain that there is no passive voice in Serbo-Croat. There is a passive past participle—they argue—and it should only be used as an adjective. The grammatical function of passive participles like 'surprised, pleased, beaten, sold' is indeed similar to the function of adjectives like 'young, red, wet, thin'.

Most grammarians, however, consider that the passive voice exists. But it should be used only when the person (or object) suffering some action is mentioned and not the person carrying it out. It is correct, in this sense, to use the passive voice when saying: 'Dečak je bio u'hvaćen' (*the boy was caught*). But if you also state the person that caught him (the teacher), it is then more correct to turn the statement into an active one: 'Učitelj je u'hvatio dečka.' Večera će biti do'neta (*Supper will be brought in*). But: 'Moja žena će do'neti ve'čeru' (*My wife will bring in the supper*).

Instead of using the passive, we often turn a transitive verb into a reflexive one—especially in the present tense: 'Ova knjiga se mnogo čita' (*This book is read a lot*); 'To se još ne zna' (*This is not known yet*); 'Ova reč se izgo'vara drugačije' (*This word is pronounced differently*).

The passive past participle is formed from the infinitive stem to which the following endings are added: -an; -en or -jen; -nut or -et.

Most verbs ending in -ati use -an (čĩ'tati—čĩtan; pi'sati—pisan). Most verbs ending in -iti or -eti add the ending -jen (vo'liti—voljen; mr'zeti—mržen). Those ending in -nuti use -nut (kre'nuti—krenut; is'taknuti—is'taknut). You will find passive past participles in the List of Verbs on page 80 ff. and in most dictionaries.

As with other conjugations, there are two alternatives for all tenses: full form and enclitic. Ja sam u'hvaćen (*I am caught*) and u'hvaćen sam. Ja sam bio u'hvaćen (*I was caught*) and bio sam u'hvaćen. In the examples given below we confine ourselves to the enclitic form and to the first person singular—it is quite simple to develop from these examples the full form and the other persons:

Present: **u'hvaćen sam** (*I am caught*).

Perfect: **bio sam u'hvaćen** (*I was caught*).

Future: **Biću u'hvaćen** (*I shall be caught*).

Conditional: **Bio bih u'hvaćen** (*I should be caught*).

Imperative: **budi u'hvaćen!** (*Be caught!*).

Present participle: **bu'dući u'hvaćen** (*being caught*).

Indeclinable past participle: **bivši u'hvaćen** (*having been caught*).

Infinitive: **biti u'hvaćen** (*to be caught*).

LIST OF VERBS

A selection of verbs in common use is given below. They are listed in imperfective and perfective aspect, if applicable, with compound verbs derived from basic forms.

We have mentioned already that imperfective verbs, compounded with certain prefixes, become perfective. The meaning of the verb formed in this way is usually the same or rather similar to the meaning of the original verb. In other cases the new verb has a different meaning. Before forming your new derivative verb you must, therefore, first make sure that such a form exists and also find out its exact meaning.

The following prepositions are used as prefixes for this purpose:

do up to; until	pre across; over
za for	pred before
iz out; out of	pri to; close to
nad over; above	pro through; past; by
o or ob round; about	raz asunder; apart
od from; away	s or sa with; down from
po <i>qualifying in some way</i>	u in; into
<i>the meaning of the</i>	
<i>original verb</i>	
pod under	uz up

The verbs in the List below are given in alphabetical order. But we begin with the verb 'íci' (to go, walk) and its derivatives since it is one of the few verbs that will take all the prepositions listed above and will thus form new verbs.

Íci (to go). **Idem**, **i'sao** (**išla**), **idi**! (Imperfective).

All the following compounds are perfective:

Doći (to come). **Dodem**, **do'sao** (**došla**) **dodi**!

Izi'ći (go out). **Izi'dem**, **izi'sao** (**iziš'la**) **izi'di**!

Iza'ći (go out). **Iza'dem**, **iza'sao** (**izaš'la**) **iza'di**!

Naći (find). **Nadem**, **na'sao** (**našla**) **nadi**!

Nai'ći (come upon, come along). **Na'idem**, **na'išao**, **nai'di**!

Nadi'ći (come on from above). **Nad'idem**, **nad'išao**, **nad'idi**!

O'bići (go round). **O'bidem**, **o'bišao**, **o'bidi!**
O'tići (go away). **O'tidem**, **o'tišao**, **o'tidi!**
Poći (move off, start going). **Podem**, **po'šao**, **pod!**
Pod'ići (approach). **Pod'idem**, **pod'išao**, **pod'idi!**
Preći (go across, over). **Pređem**, **pre'šao**, **predi!**
Prići (approach). **Priđem**, **pri'šao**, **priđi!**
Proći (go through, go past). **Prođem**, **pro'šao**, **prođi!**
Raz'ići se (go apart, part company). **Raz'idem**, **raz'išao**, **raz'idi!**
Sići (come down from). **Sidem**, **si'šao**, **sidi!**
Ući (come in, go into). **Udem**, **u'šao**, **uđi!**
Uzi'ći (go up). **Uz'idem**, **uz'išao**, **uz'idi!**
Zaći (go behind, go into). **Zađem**, **za'šao**, **zađi!**

All the above Perfective verbs can be turned into Imperfective equivalents by replacing 'ići' with the root verb '-laziti'. We receive new verbs as shown here:

Do'laziti (to come) (Imperfective). **Do'lazim**, **do'lazio**, **do'lazi!**
Izi'laziti, **iza'laziti**, **na'laziti**, etc.

The only slight alteration happens with 'o'tići', whose Imperfective pair is: **odi'laziti**, **odi'lazim**, **odi'lazio**.

Ba'cati (throw) (I). **Bacam**, **bacao**, **bacan**, **bacaj!**
Ba'citi (throw) (P). **Bacim**, **ba'cio**, **bačen**, **baci!**
P: Odba'citi (reject); **izba'citi** (eject). **I: -ci'vati**.

Ba'viti se (stay; go in for) (I).
Za'baviti se (spend time doing something) (P).
Za'bavljati se (have a good time) (I).

Be'žati (run) (I). **Bežim**, **be'žao**, **beži!**
Po'beći (run away) (P). **Po'begnem**, **po'begao**, **po'begni!**
Iz'beći (avoid, run away) (P). **Izbega'vati** (avoid) (I).

Biti (to be). See pages 32–48.

Biti (beat, strike). **Bijem**, **bio**, **bijen**, **bij!**
P: Od'biti (reject, refuse); **do'biti** (get, receive); **po'biti** (refute, massacre); **pre'biti** (break—something long); **pri'biti** (nail, fix); **raz'biti** (smash); **u'biti** (kill). **I: -bi'jati**.

Bo'leti (ache, hurt) (I). **Bolim**, **bo'lio**, **boli!** (**Boli me glava**—my head aches).
P: Zabo'leti (begin aching); **prebo'leti** (overcome an illness or loss).

Bo'raviti (stay, sojourn) (I).

Probo'raviti (stay for a while) (P).

Zabo'raviti (forget) (P). **Zaborav'ljati** (keep forgetting) (I).

Če'kati (wait) (I).

Pri'čekati (wait for a while) (P).

Či'tati (read) (I).

Pro'čitati (read through) (P).

Da'vati (give) (I). **Dajem, da'vao, davaj!**

P: **Dati** (give) **Dam, dao, daj!** **Do'dati** (pass on; add); **iz'dati** (betray, issue); **pre'dati** (hand over); **pro'dati** (sell). I: **-da'vati**.

Di'zati (lift) (I). **Dižem, di'zao, dizan, diži!**

Dići (lift) (also: **dignuti**) (P). **Dignem, di'gao, dignut, digni!**

Dobi'vati (get, receive) (I).

Do'biti (get, receive) (P). **Do'bijem, do'bio, dobi'jen, dobij!**

Dr'žati (hold, keep) (I). **Držim, dr'žao, držan, drži!**

P: **Pri'držati** (hold for a short while); **za'držati** (retain); **iz'držati** (hold out, suffer); **o'držati** (keep word or promise); **po'držati** (support). I: **-drža'vati**.

Ga'siti (extinguish) (I). **Gasim, ga'sio, gašen, gasi!**

Uga'siti (extinguish) (P.).

Gle'dati (look) (I). **Iz'gledati** (to appear to be, to appear).

Po'gledati (look, throw a glance) (P). **U'gledati** (catch sight of) (P).

Govo'riti (speak, talk) (I).

P: **Izgovo'riti** (utter, pronounce); **odgovo'riti** (reply), **ugovo'riti** (stipulate). I: **-gova'rati**.

Razgova'rati (carry on conversation) (I). **Pregova'rati** (negotiate) (I).

Gra'diti (build, construct) (I).

P: **sagra'diti** (build); **izgra'diti** (build up); **nagra'diti** (reward). I: **-gradi'vati**.

Gre'jati (heat, warm—Trans.) (I). **Grejem, gre'jao, grejan, grej!**

Gre'jati se (warm self) (I).

P: **Za'grejati** (warm up); **za'grejati se** (warm self up); **o'grejati se** (same); **u'grejati se** (same).

Gristi (bite, gnaw) (I). **Grizem, gri'zao, grizen, grizi!**

P: **Ugristi** (bite); **zagristi** (bite into); **od'gristi** (bite off); **pri'gristi** (have a bite).

Hteti (wish, want, desire) (I). **Hoću, hteo, htej!**

Za'hteti (as above) (P).

Hva'li (thank, praise) (I).

P: **Zahva'li** (thank); **pohva'li** (praise).

I'grati (play, gamble) (I). **I'grati se** (play—children).

Za'igrati (start playing) (P).

Is'kati (demand, require) (I). **Ištem, is'kao, išti!**

Za'iskati (as above) (P).

Jav'ljati (announce, inform) (I).

Ja'viti (as above) (P).

P: **obja'viti** (announce, reveal); **prija'viti** (report facts); **izja'viti** (make a statement); **Poja'viti se** (appear). I: **-javlji'vati**.

Ka'zati (tell, say) (P). **Doka'zati** (prove); **otka'zati** (give notice); **poka'zati** (show); **prika'zati** (present, perform); **uka'zati** (point to). I: **-kazi'vati**.

Krasti (steal) (I). **Kradem, krao, kraden, kradi!**

U'krasti (steal) (P). **O'krasti** (rob).

Kre'tati (move) (I).

Kre'nuti (move) (P).

Pokre'tati (start—a movement); **iskre'tati** (distort); **zakre'tati** (turn a corner); **okre'tati** (turn—a page); **skre'tati** (turn off, stray).

All these compounds also exist in perfective form: **pokre'nuti**, **okre'nuti**, etc.

Ku'vati (cook, boil) (I). N.B.: Croatian: **Ku'hati**.

Sku'vati—Croatian: **sku'hati**—(cook, boil).

Ku'pati (bathe) and **ku'pati se** (bathe, swim).

Oku'pati and **oku'pati se** (bathe, swim).

Kupo'vati (buy, shop) (I). **Ku'pujem, kupo'vao, ku'povan, kupuj!**

Ku'piti (buy) (P). **Kupim, ku'pio, kupljen, kupi!**

P: **Zaku'piti** (rent); **isku'piti** (fulfil a promise). I: **-kuplji'vati**.

Note. All the above perfective compounds of **ku'piti** as well as **ku'piti** itself carry a long, rising accent on their letter 'u'. The imperfective verb **ku'piti** given below as well as all its compounds carry a short, falling accent: **ku'piti** itself on the letter 'u' and its compounds on their prefixes.

Ku'piti (gather, collect) (I).

P: **Po'kupiti, sku'piti, pri'kupiti** (collect, gather).

La'gati (tell lie) (I). **Lažem, la'gao, laži!**

Sla'gati (tell lie) (P).

Le'teti (fly). **Letim, le'teo, leti!**

P: **Dole'teti** (fly up to); **pole'teti** (take off); **odle'teti** (fly off, take off);
prele'teti (fly across); **uzle'teti** (take off).

Le'žati (lie, be lying) (I). **Ležim, le'žao, leži!**

Leći (lie down). **Legnem, le'gao, lezi!**

Liti (pour) (I). **Lijem, lio, liven or lijn, lij!**

P: **Na'liti** (fill); **iz'liti** (pour, cast, spill); **po'liti** (wet); **raz'liti** (spill).

Lu'pati (knock, beat) (I).

Lu'piti (knock, beat) (P). **Lupnem, lu'pio** (or **lup'nuo**), **lupnut, lupni!**

P: **Izlu'pati** (beat up); **slu'pati** (smash); **polu'pati** (break).

Lo'žiti (lay fire) (I).

P: **Nalo'žiti** (lay fire; order); **zalo'žiti** (have snack; pawn); **izlo'žiti**
(explain); **odlo'žiti** (postpone); **predlo'žiti** (suggest, propose);
prilo'žiti (contribute); **razlo'žiti** (explain); **obrazlo'žiti** (justify). I:
-la'gati.

Me'riti (measure, weigh).

P: **Iz'meriti, od'meriti** (same meaning). **Za'meriti** (take amiss).

Me'tati (put) (I). **Mećem, me'tao, metan, metaj!**

Met'nuti (put) (P). **Metnem, met'nuo, metnut, metni!**

P: **Za'metnuti** (mislay); **na'metnuti** (impose); **u'metnuti** (insert). I:
-metati.

Miti se (wash—face). **Mijem, mio, mijen or miven, mij!**

U'miti se (as above) (P).

Moći (to be able, can) (I). **Mogu, mo'gao, mozi!**

Uz'moći (to be able) (P). **Uz'mognem, uz'mogao, uz'mogni!**

Poma'gati (help) (I). **Po'mažem, poma'gao, po'magan, poma'ži!**

Po'moći (help) (P). **Po'mognem, po'mogao, po'mognut, po'mogni** or
pomo'zi!

Izne'moći (to become exhausted) (P).

Mo'rati (must; compelled to) (I).

Primo'rati (force, compel) (P); **primora'vati** (force, compel) (I).

Na'dati se (hope) (I).

Pona'dati se (hope) (P).

No'siti (carry, wear) (I). **Nosim, no'sio, nošen, nosi!**

Root for perfective compounds: **-neti**.

Iz'nositi (I), **iz'neti** (P), carry out; amount.

Do'nositi (I), **do'neti** (P), bring.

Od'nositi (I), **od'neti**, take away, carry off.

Pre'nositi (I), **pre'neti**, transfer, transport.

Dopri'nositi (I), **dopri'neti**, contribute.

Raz'nositi (I), **raz'neti**, distribute, scatter.

Nu'diti (offer) (I).

Po'nuditi (offer) (P).

O'pravljati (repair) (I).

O'praviti (repair) (P).

O'sećati (feel) (I).

O'setiti (feel) (P).

O'stajati (stay, remain) (I). **O'stajem, o'stajao, ostaj!**

O'stati (stay, remain) (P). **O'stanem, o'stao, o'stani!**

Pa'dati (fall) (I). **Padam, pa'dao, padaj!**

Pasti (fall) (P). **Padnem, pao, padni!**

P: **Is'pasti** (come about, happen); **na'pasti** (attack); **ot'pasti** (fall off; defect); **pot'pasti** (come under—command); **pre'pasti** (frighten); **pri'pasti** (to belong to); **pro'pasti** (become ruined); **ras'pasti se** (fall to pieces).

All these compounds can be turned into imperfective verbs, when the verb root is **-padati**: **is'padati, na'padati**, etc.

Peći (bake, fry). **Pečem, pe'kao, pečen, peci!**

P: **Is'peći; speći**.

Pi'tati (ask) (I).

P: **Upi'tati, zapi'tati** (ask, put a question) (P).

Ispi'tati (to examine) (P). **Ispiti'vati** (examine) (I).

Pla'kati (weep) (I). **Plačem, pla'kao, plači!**

Za'plakati (start weeping) (P).

Pla'ćati (pay) (I).

Pla'titi (pay) (P).

Prati (wash) (I). **Perem, prao, pran, peri!**

O'prati (wash) (P).

Pra'viti (make, construct) (I).

Na'praviti (make, construct) (P).

P: **Is'praviti** (correct); **o'praviti** (mend, repair); **po'praviti** (mend, repair); **pri'praviti** (prepare); **ras'praviti** (discuss); **u'praviti** (direct, train); I: **-pravljati**.

U'pravljati—direct, manage.

Pri'mati (accept, receive) (I).

Pri'miti (accept, receive) (P).

Pru'žati (pass, offer) (I).

Pru'žiti (pass, offer) (P).

Puštati (let, allow) (I).

Pus'titi (let, allow) (P).

P: **Dopus'titi** (allow, concede); **zapus'titi** (neglect); **napus'titi** (desert); **otpus'titi** (dismiss, sack); **propus'titi** (miss); **raspus'titi** (disband).

I: **-puš'tati**.

Razu'meti (I & P) (understand).

Sporazu'meti se (to reach agreement; to make oneself understood).

Sporazume'vati se (I)—same meaning.

Reći (say, tell) (P). **Reknem, re'kao, rečen, reci!**

P: **Iz'reći** (utter, pronounce); **od'reći** (deny); **od'reći se** (renounce); **po'reći** (deny); **pro'reći** (forecast). I: **-ricati**.

Se'ćati se (remember) (I).

Se'titi se (remember) (P).

Pod'setiti (remind) (P).

O'sećati (feel) (I); **O'setiti** (feel) (P).

Se'deti (sit) (I). **Sedim, se'deo; sedi!**

Sesti (sit down) (P). **Sednem, seo, sedni!**

Ski'dati (take off, strip) (I). **Ski'dati se** (strip oneself) (I).

Ski'nuti (take off, strip) (P). **Ski'nuti se** (strip oneself) (P).

Slati (send, ship) (I). **Šaljem, slao, slan, šalji!**

Po'slati (send) (P); **o'daslati** (send off) (P).

Sli'kati (paint, photograph) (I & P). **Sli'kati se** (have one's photograph taken).

Slu'šati (listen; obey) (I).

Sa'slušati (listen out, interrogate) (P). **Po'slušati** (obey) (P).

Prisluški'vati (eavesdrop) (I).

Spa'vati (sleep) (I).

Odspa'vati (sleep for a period) (P). **Za'spati** (fall asleep) (P).

Sta'jati (stand) (I). **Stojim, sta'jao, stoj!**

Stati (stand, stop) (P). **Stanem, stao, stani!**

P: **Za'stati** (pause); **na'stati** (become); **o'stati** (remain); **po'stati** (become, exist); **o'dustati** (renounce, desist); **pre'stati** (cease); **u'stati** (get up). I: **-stajati**.

Stav'ljati (put, set) (I).

Sta'viti (put, set) (P).

Ste'zati (contract, tighten) (I). **Stežem, ste'zao, stezan, steži!**

Steg'nuti (contract, tighten). **Steg'nem, ste'gao, stegnit, stegni!**

Sti'deti se (to be ashamed) (I).

Zasti'deti se (to become ashamed) (P).

Sti'zati (be arriving) (I). **Stižem, sti'zao, stiži!**

Stići (arrive) (P). **Stignem, sti'gao, stigni!**

P: **Do'stići** (catch up); **po'stići** (achieve); **pre'stići** (overtake). I: **-stizati**.

Svet'liti se (shine, light) (I).

Zasvet'liti se (shine up, light up) (P). **Osvet'liti** (light up—trans.).

Rasvet'liti (light up—trans.) (P). **Rasvetlja'vati** (light up) (I).

Šiti (sew) (I). **Šijem, šio, šiven, šij!**

Sa'šiti (sew) (P).

Štam'pati (print) (I & P).

P: **Od'stampati** (print); **na'stampati** (print).

Teći (flow) (I). **Tečem, te'kao, teci!**

P: **Is'teći** (run out); **na'teći** (swell); **po'teći** (stem from, originate); **pre'teći** (overtake, abound). I: **-ticati**.

Is'ticati (to point out) (I). **Is'tičem, is'ticao, is'tican, is'tiči!**

Is'taknuti (point out) (P). **Is'taknem, is'taknuo, is'taknut, is'takni!**

Is'taknuti se (distinguish oneself).

Tra'jati (last) (I). **Trajem, tra'jao, traj!**

P: **Po'trajati** (last); **do'trajati** (become worn out); **is'trajati** and **us'trajati** (persevere).

Pa'liti (fire, set on fire, shoot) (I).

Zapa'liti (set on fire) (P). **Potpa'liti** (kindle).

Tra'žiti (look for, demand, ask) (I).

P: **Potra'žiti** (look for); **zatra'žiti** (demand, request); **istra'žiti** (examine, interrogate, research); **pretra'žiti** (search—Police).

I: **-traži'vati**.

Potraži'vati (to have a claim on . . .).

Tr'čati (run) (I). **Trčim, tr'čao, trči!**

P: **do'trčati** (run up; run up to); **is'trčati** (run out of); **pre'trčati** (run across); **za'trčati se** (run up). I: **-trča'vati**.

Tre'bati. See page 75.

Tresti (shake) (I). **Tresti se** (shiver, tremble) (I).

Za'tresti (shake) (P).

P: **Po'tresti** (shock); **is'tresti** (shake out); **o'tresti** (shake off); **otres'ti se** (get rid of); **pre'tresti** (search, try in court), **ras'tresti se** (take mind off trouble). I: **-tresati**.

Tr'gati (break off, pull off) (I).

P: **O'trgati** (as above); **o'trgnuti** (as above); **str'gati** (break); **pre'trgati** (break something long); **is'trgati** (extract).

Tro'šiti (spend, waste) (I).

Potro'šiti (as above) (P). **Istro'šiti se** (to spend a lot of money).

Tr'peti (suffer, stand, endure) (I). **Trpim, tr'peo, trp'ljen, trpi!**

Pre'trpeti (as above) (P).

U'čiti (learn, study) (I).

P: **Nau'čiti** (as above); **prou'čiti** (study thoroughly). I: **-uča'vati**.

U'darati (hit, strike, knock) (I).

U'dariti (as above) (P).

Upotreblja'vati (make use of) (I).

Upotre'biti (as above) (P).

U'zimati (take) (I).

U'zeti (take) (P). P: **od'uzeti** (take away); **iz'uzeti** (take out; except); **pod'uzeti** or **pred'uzeti** (undertake); **pre'uzeti** (take over); **za'uzeti** (occupy). I: **-uzimati**.

Vi'kati (shout) (I). **Vičem, vi'kao, viči!**

Vik'nuti (shout) (P). **Viknem, vik'nuo, vikni!**

Vo'diti (lead, conduct) (I). **Vodim, vo'dio, vodjen, vodi!**

P: **do'vesti** (lead, to bring to); **od'vesti** (lead away); **na'vesti** (quote); **pre'vesti** (translate); **u'vesti** (introduce). I: **-voditi**.

Vo'ziti (drive) (I). **Vo'ziti se** (ride) (I).

P: **dovesti** (bring up); **iz'vesti** (carry out; export); **u'vesti** (import); **pre'vesti** (transport).

Vo'leti (like, love) (I). **Volim, vo'lio, voljen, voli!**

Zavo'leti (begin loving) (P).

Vra'ćati (return) (I). **Vra'ćati se** (return) (I).

Vra'titi (return) (P). **Vra'titi se** (return) (P).

P: **Navra'titi** or **svra'titi** (pop in for a visit); **odvra'titi** (dissuade);
povra'titi (return; vomit). I: **-vraćati**.

Vući (pull) (I).

P: **Dovu'ći** (bring up); **odvu'ći** (take away); **zavu'ći** (delay); **podvu'ći**
 (underline, stress); **svući** (strip). I: **-vla'čiti**.

Znati (know) (I).

P: **Do'znati** or **sa'znati** (come to know).

Zvati (call, invite, ask) (I).

P: **Po'zvati** (invite); **sa'zvati** (convene); **i'zazvati** (provoke).
 I: **-zi'vati**.

Že'leti (wish, desire) (I). **Želim, že'leo; željen, želi!**

P: **Pože'leti** or **zaže'leti** (as above).

Ži'veti (live). **Živim, živeo, živi!**

P: **Poži'veti** (live for a while); **doži'veti** (to live long enough to see);
oži'veti (liven up); **preži'veti** (survive).

ADJECTIVES

Each adjective has separate forms for the three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. Almost without exception, adjectives are used with nouns—always preceding the noun they belong to. An adjective has to agree with its noun in gender, number, and case.

All adjectives belong to one of the two categories: definite or indefinite. The definite adjective should be used when speaking of a definite person, animal, object, or notion. Stari čovek—*the old man*; mladi pas—*the young dog*; visoki prozor—*the tall window*; strogi nadzor—*the strict supervision*. Such statements are introduced in English with the definite article 'the'. If, however, the indefinite article is used in English—'a' or 'an'—you have to use the indefinite adjective in Serbo-Croatian. Star čovek—*an old man*; mlad pas—*a young dog*; visok prozor—*a tall window*; strog nadzor—*strict supervision*.

As you can see, the masculine adjective ends with an 'i', which is dropped in the case of indefinite adjectives.

The difference between definite and indefinite in feminine and neuter adjectives is hardly apparent. It is noticeable only in the length of their final vowel and this difference is mostly neglected even by Yugoslavs; in most cases they are hardly aware of its existence. It is probably correct to state that the indefinite adjective is losing ground anyhow, i.e. it is becoming extinct.

In the following two cases, however, the use of the indefinite adjective is compulsory:

(1) When the adjective forms the predicate—or part of the predicate—of a sentence or phrase. Čovek je star—*the man is old*; prozor je visok—*the window is tall*; pas je mlad—*the dog is young*.

(2) When an adjective is used with the numbers 2, 3, or 4. These numbers govern the genitive singular, which, in the case of indefinite masculine adjectives, ends in 'a'. Dva stara čo'veka—*two old men*; tri mlada konja—*three young horses*; če'tiri ve'lika ka'mena—*four large stones*.

Temporal adjectives possess only the definite form and no indefinite alternative; but if they are used in conjunction with the numerals 2, 3, or 4, they will take, for their genitive singular ending, the same 'a' as if they were indefinite. Da'našnji—*today's*; juče'rašnji—*yesterday's*; letnji—*summer's*; zimski—*winter's*, etc. Dva zimska

dana—*two winter days*; tri da'našnja lista—*three of today's papers*. The temporal adjective—in its definite form—is used indiscriminately either as subject or as object of a sentence. Današnji dan je lep—*today's day is beautiful* (Da'našnji as part of the subject); Mislim na da'našnji dan—I'm thinking of today's day (Da'našnji as part of the object here).

Adjectives ending in -ak, -ar, -an, or -ao in their nominative singular drop the 'a' whenever their final consonant is followed by another vowel. This happens in all cases of their feminine and neuter genders, as also in most of the oblique cases of their masculine declension. Krepak, krepka, krepko (*strong, vigorous*); dobar, dobra, dobro (*good*); u'moran, u'morna, u'morno (*tired*); bolan, bolna, bolno (*painful*).

The nominative singular endings of definite adjectives are 'i' (masculine), 'a' (feminine), and 'o' (neuter).

There are just a few adjectives with a soft ending preceding their final vowel. These adjectives have 'e' as their neuter ending instead of 'o'. Vrući, vruća, vruće (*hot*); loši, loša, loše (*bad, poor*); sveži, sveža, sveže (*fresh*). These adjectives form a very small group so that this difference—as also their slight difference in declension—would hardly matter. It does however matter when it comes to the comparative and superlative forms of *all adjectives* because it so happens that in these forms all adjectives have a soft consonant preceding their ending. Comparatives and superlatives of all adjectives are, therefore, declined according to that special pattern (as given below for 'vrući').

And lastly there is a very small number of indefinite adjectives whose masculine singular ending is 'o', while their definite ending is 'li'. Beo, bela, belo (indefinite, meaning 'white'), but beli, bela, belo in its definite forms. Also ceo, cela celo—meaning 'entire'. Whenever this 'o' is followed by a vowel (as happens in its declension), the 'o' changes to 'l'. Beo, belog, belom, etc.

DECLENSION OF ADJECTIVES

HARD STEM—MASCULINE

DEFINITE		INDEFINITE	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
N. stari	stari	star	stari
G. starog	starih	stara	starih
D. starom	starim	staru	starim

DEFINITE		INDEFINITE	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
A. starog (animate)	stare	stara	stare
stari (inanimate)			
V. stari	stari	.....	.....
I. starim	starim	starim	starim
L. starom	starim	starom	starim

SOFT STEM—MASCULINE

DEFINITE		INDEFINITE	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
N. vrući	vrući	vruč	vrući
G. vručeg	vručih	vruča	vručih
D. vručem	vručim	vruču	vručim
A. vručeg (animate)	vručē	vruča	vručē
vrući (inanimate)			
V. vrući	vrući	.....	.....
I. vručim	vručim	vručim	vručim
L. vručem	vručim	vručem	vručē

Notes

1. There is no vocative (singular or plural) for indefinite adjectives, since you cannot 'address' (talk to) an indefinite person, animal, or object.
2. If the adjective belongs to an animate masculine noun, its accusative singular equals the genitive. If it belongs to an inanimate noun, it equals the nominative singular. The situation here is, in fact, the same as in the case of the declension of masculine animate and inanimate nouns.

FEMININE ADJECTIVES

Singular	Plural
N. stara	stare
G. stare	starih
D. staroj	starim
A. staru	stare
V. stara	stare
I. starom	starim
L. staroj	starim

NEUTER ADJECTIVES

Singular	Plural
N. staro	stara
G. starog	starih
D. starom	starim
A. staro	stara
V. staro	stara
I. starim	starim
L. starom	starim

SENTENCES

Stari čovek je na u'lici. Mlada de'vojka sedi na klupi. Vi'dimo stara čo'veka na travi. To je malo selo u Jugo'slaviji. Ovo je kuća mladog ofici'ra. Knjiga male de'vojke je na stolu. Do'lazim iz ve'likog sela. Majka mladog de'teta. Dajte pismo mladoj de'vojci, starom pasti'ru ili malom de'tetu. Vidim crnog knoja i cr'venu kuću. Gle'dajte malo selo! Znam starog selja'ka i staru crkvu. Mladi pri'jatelju, da li vidiš cr'venu ružu? Dva mlada vojni'ka stoje na u'lici. Draga sestro, zašto plačeš? On je uvek u parku s nekim mladim de'vojkama. Pišem desnom rukom a čitam levim okom. Razgo'varamo o lepom kraju, novoj kući i starom selu. Bio sam u gradu sa tri pri'jatelja. Tri gospo'dina sede u kafa'ni. Crni konji su na putu. Mar'ljivim lju'dima ništa nije teško. Vidim nova sela ali ne vidim stare selja'ke. Hej, draga braćo, zašto ne pe'vate? Lako je sa pa'metnim đacima. Gra'dani žive u ve'likim gra'dovima, a selja'ci žive u se'lima. Moja dva druga su bila u gradu, a ja nisam mo'gao da idem. Zar nemaš ni tri nova dina'ra?

TRANSLATION

The old man is in the street. The young girl is sitting on the bench. We see an old man on the grass. That is a small village in Yugoslavia. This is the house of the young officer. The little girl's book is on the table. I come from a large village. The young child's mother. Give the letter to the young girl, the old shepherd, or the little child. I see a black horse and a red house. Look at the little village! I know the old peasant and the old church. Young friend, can you see the red rose? Two young soldiers are standing in the street. Dear sister, why are you crying? He is always in the park with some young girls.

I write with my right hand and read with my left eye. We are talking of the beautiful countryside, the new house, and the old village. I was in town with three of my friends. Three gentlemen are sitting in the café. The black horses are on the road. Nothing is difficult for hardworking people. I can see the new villages but I can't see the old peasants. Hey, dear brothers, why don't you sing? It is easy with clever students. Citizens live in towns and peasants live in villages. My two comrades were in town but I was unable to go. Don't you have even three new dinars?

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

I live in a new town but my father lives in an old village. This is a very tall window for such an old and small house. My dear friends, it was very nice of you to come and visit me. I'm writing to the dear little girl whom we met on the beach in Dubrovnik last year. Why don't you want to go to the new theatre? Simply because I don't like new buildings. Yugoslavia is a big country but I only know two very old gentlemen (out) there. If I can't go to the seaside with my new girl friend, I shall stay at home with my old books. Whenever he has three or four dinars in (his) pocket, he goes to the new café. I have been living for two days with these old peasants and now I know everything about their long and difficult life. I don't want to stay here because he will start telling his old stories which I have heard hundreds of times already.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

The possessive adjective of masculine animate nouns is formed with the help of the suffixes 'ov' or 'ev'. Normally it is 'ov' that is added to the nominative singular of a noun: brat—bratov; seljak—selja'kov; radnik—rad'nikov.

If the nominative singular of the noun ends in a soft consonant, the ending 'ev' is used. Muž—mužev; kralj—kraljev; u'čitelj—u'čiteljev.

Feminine nouns drop their ending (a) and use the suffix: -in. Sestra—sestrin; žena—ženin.

If, when the final 'a' is dropped, the stem of the noun ends in 'k' or 'c', these change into 'č' before adding the suffix 'in'. Majka—majčin; učite'ljica—učite'ljičin; prijate'ljica—prijate'ljičin.

COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

COMPARATIVE

The comparative of adjectives is formed by adding certain endings to them.

We are first taking a group of three adjectives using the suffixes: -ši, -ša, -še for the three genders. These adjectives are: lep (nice, beautiful); lak (easy, light); mek (soft). And their comparatives—for the three genders—are: lepši, lepša, lepše; lakši, lakša, lakše and mekši, mekša, mekše.

All other adjectives use the endings: -ji, -ja, -je; or -iji, -ija, -ije. Before the suffix is added, there is always a slight change in the adjective's final consonant (palatalization). You should very soon be able (correctly!) to guess these changes. But it may be a good idea to memorize the comparatives given below which will serve as a good guide for other adjectives:

bedan (*poor*) bedniji
 beo (*white*) belji
 besan (*furious*) bešnji
 bistar (*clear*) bis'triji
 blag (*mild*) blaži
 bled (*pale*) bleđi
 bleštav (*shiny*) blešta'viji
 bogat (*rich*) boga'tiji
 bolan (*painful*) bol'niji
 brz (*quick*) brži
 crn (*black*) crnji
 crven (*red*) crve'niji
 čest (*frequent*) češći
 čvrst (*firm*) čvršći
 de'beo (*fat, thick*) deblji
 drag (*dear*) draži
 dug (*long*) duži
 fin (*fine*) fi'niji
 gluv (*deaf*) gluvlji
 golem (*enormous*) gole'miji
 gorak (*bitter*) gorči
 grub (*coarse*) grublji
 gust (*thick, frequent*) gušći

hrabar (*brave*) hrab'riji
 jak (*strong*) jači
 jevtin (*cheap*) jevti'niji
 krut (*rigid*) krući
 loš (*bad, poor*) lo'šiji
 ljut (*sharp, angry*) ljući
 lud (*mad*) luđi
 mlad (*young*) mladi
 moker (*wet*) mok'riji
 mršav (*lean*) mrša'viji
 oštar (*sharp*) oš'triji
 plav (*blue*) pla'viji
 siro'mašan (*poor*) siromaš'niji
 slab (*weak*) sla'biji
 spor (*slow*) spo'riji
 star (*old*) sta'riji
 suh (*dry*) suši (Croatian)
 suv (*dry*) suvlji (Serbian)
 tih (*quiet*) tiši
 tup (*blunt, stupid*) tuplji
 žilav (*sinewy*) žila'viji
 žut (*yellow*) žući

Notes

1. Adjectives ending in -ak, -ok, or -ek drop this final syllable before the comparative ending is added. Here are a few examples: Blizak (*near*)—bliži; dalek (*far*)—dalji; dubok (*deep*)—dublji; kratak (*short*)—kraći; plitak (*shallow*)—plići; težak (*heavy, difficult*)—teži; žestok (*violent*)—žešći, etc.
2. If the stem of an adjective ends in -p or -b, it will be necessary to interpolate an 'l' before adding the suffix. Dubok (*deep*) first drops the 'ok' and, since 'b' is now the final consonant, inserts the 'l' to become 'dublji'. Also glup (*silly*) becomes gluplji.
3. There are four adjectives whose comparison—as in most other languages—is entirely irregular:

dobar (<i>good</i>)	bolji	mali (<i>little</i>)	manji
zao (<i>bad, evil</i>)	gori	ve'liki (<i>big</i>)	veći

4. Regardless of how you have formed your masculine comparative and superlative, the feminine and neuter endings are -a and -e (the latter because there is always a soft consonant in them), e.g. Bed'niji, be'dnija, be'dnije; deblji, deblja, deblje; brži, brža, brže.

The English 'than' used for comparison is best translated with 'nego'. It can be used for the comparison of subjects or objects in a sentence. Ja sam sta'riji nego vi (*I am older than you*); vidim njega bolje nego vas (*I can see him better than I see you*).

If the first object of comparison is in the nominative, you can use either 'nego' or 'od'; but if you use 'od', it has to be followed by the genitive: Ja sam sta'riji od vas (*I am older than you*).

If the comparison relates to verbs, translate 'than' with 'nego što': On go'vori bolje nego što piše (*He speaks better than he writes*).

SUPERLATIVE

Regardless of the method used to form the comparative, the superlative is made from it by prefixing 'naj'. Here are a few examples: Naj'blaži, naj'blaža, naj'blaže; naj'gušći, naj'gušća, naj'gušće; naj'mlađi, naj'mlađa, naj'mlađe; naj'tiši, naj'tiša, naj'tiše; naj'bolji, naj'bolja, naj'bolje.

ADVERBS

Most adverbs are formed from adjectives. Normally, the adverb is identical with the neuter gender of its corresponding adjective. The adjective *dobri, dobra, dobro* (*good*) has its corresponding adverb: *dobro* (*well*). Here are a few more examples: *Lepo* (*beautifully*), *jako* (*strongly*), *slabo* (*weakly*), *grubo* (*roughly*).

If, however, an adjective ends in *-ski* or *-čki*, its adverb is identical with its masculine gender. This form of adverb especially is often derived from adjectives meaning a certain nationality, such as: *eng'leski, jugoslo'venski, srpski, ne'mački*. All these adjectives and adverbs are spelt with a miniscule.

Adverbs are sometimes derived from nouns. '*Pri'jateljski*' means 'in a friendly way'; *u'čiteljski* means 'as a teacher' or 'in a teacher's way'.

Note. The statement: *Go'vorim srpski* means 'I speak Serbian'—or 'in a Serbian way', or even 'I speak the Serbian language' although '*jezik*' (for 'language') is almost always dropped.

The comparative and superlative of adverbs is always identical with the corresponding form of the neuter adjective: *Lepo, lepše, naj'lepše* (*nicely, more nicely, most nicely*); *čvrsto, čvršće, naj'čvršće* (*firmly, more firmly, most firmly*); *dobro, bolje, naj'bolje* (*well, better, best*).

PRONOUNS

There are personal, interrogative, relative, possessive, and demonstrative pronouns, all of them declined according to their meaning and position in the sentence or clause.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

We have met with personal pronouns already (page 32), when dealing with the Present tense of the verb 'to be'. You will find their declensions set out below, together with rules about their position in the sentence and on the use and choice of their full and enclitic forms in given situations.

Singular

N.	ja	ti	on	ona	ono
G.	mene (me)	tebe (te)	njega (ga)	nje (je)	njega (ga)
D.	meni (mi)	tebi (ti)	njemu (mu)	njoj (joj)	njemu (mu)
A.	mene (me)	tebe (te)	njega (ga)	nju (je, ju)	njega (ga)
V.	.....	ti	.....	.....	.....
I.	sa mnom	s tobom	s njime (njim)	s njom	s njim
L.	meni	tebi	njemu	njoj	njemu

Plural

N.	mi	vi	oni	one	ona
G.	nas	vas		njih (ih)	
D.	nama (nam)	vama (vam)		njima (im)	
A.	nas	vas		njih (ih)	
V.	.....	vi		.....
I.	s nama	s vama		s njima	
L.	nama	vama		njima	

The enclitic (shorter) forms are used when there is no special stress on the person they refer to. On me vidi (*he sees me*); ja ga ne znam (*I don't know him*); vidim ga, ali ne znam ko je (*I can see him but I don't know who he is*).

If, however, you want to stress the person concerned, you will have to use the full forms. This happens especially in the juxtaposition—or comparison—of two statements: On vidi mene, ali ja ne vidim njega (*He can see me, but I can't see him*); Otac go'vori meni, ne

vama (*Father is talking to me, not to you*). Or in cases like: Zar meni to ka'žete? (*Is it to me that you are saying this?*).

Notes

1. The accusative of the third person singular of 'ona' has two enclitics: 'je' and 'ju'. You are normally free to use either of them, although 'je' is used much more frequently than 'ju'.
2. The only case where 'ju' *must* be used is in the third person singular of the Perfect tense, or else the enclitic personal pronoun 'je' would be followed by another 'je'—the auxiliary. On ju je zvao (*He called her*); Brat ju je vi'deo na u'lici (*Brother saw her in the street*).
3. In the third person singular of the Perfect tense the word order is partly reversed. It is the only instance where the auxiliary verb is pushed out of its normal position—second utterance in the sentence or clause; its place is taken by the auxiliary enclitic. On mi je ka'zao (*He told me*); Brat me je vi'deo (*Brother has seen me*); On ju je polju'bio (*He has kissed her*).

If on the other hand the full form of the personal pronoun is used in the third person of the Perfect tense, we revert to the normal word order: Brat je vi'deo nju, ali ona nije vi'dela njega (*Brother saw her but she didn't see him*).

4. If a pronoun is introduced by a preposition, the enclitic pronoun cannot be used: Go'vorim o njemu (*I am talking about him*); Znam sve o njoj (*I know everything about her*).
5. If a sentence or clause contains more than one enclitic pronoun, they follow one another in the same order as their cases come in the declension: Ja ti ga do'nosim danas (*I'm bringing it to you today*); Ja ću ti ga do'neti sutra (*I shall bring it to you tomorrow*); Vi ste nam ga do'neli jučer (*You brought it to us yesterday*).

If the subject of the sentence is dropped (implied), the word order is as follows: Do'nosim ti ga (*I am bringing it to you*); Do'neo sam ti ga. Do'neću ti ga. Do'neće nam ga.

In all the above cases, if the sentence is negative, the 'ne' must immediately precede the verb. Ja ti ga ne do'nosim. Ja ti ne znam ništa reći (*I can't tell you anything*).

In sentences containing compound tenses, it is the auxiliary verb that is negated, and the word order changes accordingly: Nisam ti ga do'neo (*I haven't brought it to you*); Ne ću ti ga do'neti (*I shan't bring it to you*).

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Ovaj (**ova**, **ovo**) this
taj (**ta**, **to**) that
onaj (**ona**, **ono**) that (yonder)

Of the above given pronouns, 'ovaj' refers to persons or objects near the speaker; 'taj' to those nearer the person spoken to, and 'onaj' to those distant from both of them. But the difference between 'taj' and 'onaj' is not very consistently observed.

Ovaj—*this* (masc.)

Singular	Plural
N. ovaj	ovi
G. o'voga	ovih
D. o'vome	ovim
A. o'voga (animate) ovaj (inanimate)	ove
V. . . . .	. . . . .
I. s ovim	s ovim
L. o'vome	ovim

Ova—*this* (fem.)

Singular	Plural
N. ova	ove
G. ove	ovih
D. ovoj	ovim
A. ovu	ove
V. . . . .	. . . . .
I. s ovom	s ovim
L. ovoj	o ovim

Ovo—*this* (neut.)

Singular	Plural
N. ovo	ova
G. o'voga	ovih
D. o'vome	ovim
A. ovo	ova
V. . . . .	. . . . .
I. s ovim	s ovim
L. ovom	ovim

Notes

1. 'Taj' and 'onaj' (in all their genders) are declined exactly as 'ovaj'.
2. The final vowels ('a' and 'e') of the masculine and neuter cases are often dropped (Ovog, ovom).
3. Other pronouns declined in the same way: sam, sama, samo (*self, alone*); neki, neka, neko (*a certain; some*); isti, ista, isto (*the same*); Ova'ki, ova'ka, ova'ko (*such a one*); taki, taka, tako (*the same meaning*) and ona'ki, ona'ka, ona'ko (*also the same meaning*). Svaki, svaka, svako (*every*); ne'kakav, ne'kakva, ne'kakvo (*some kind of*); ni'kakav, ni'kakva, ni'kakvo (*no kind of; no one*).

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

Ko (or tko)— <i>who?</i>	Što (or šta)— <i>what?</i>
N. ko?	N. šta?
G. koga?	G. čega?
D. kome?	D. čemu?
A. koga?	A. šta (što)?
V.	V.
I. kime?	I. čime?
L. kome?	L. čemu?

Notes

1. The final vowels are often dropped so that we are left with: kog, kom, kim, čim.
2. The following pronouns are declined exactly as shown in the above table: neko (*somebody, someone*); niko (*nobody, no one*); nešto (*something*); ništa (*nothing*).

INTERROGATIVE AND RELATIVE PRONOUNS

MASCULINE

Koji—*who, which*

Singular	Plural
N. koji	koji
G. kojeg (kog)	kojih
D. kojem (kom)	kojim
A. kojeg (kog) (animate)	koje
koji (inanimate)	
V. ....	.....
I. kojim	kojim
L. kojem (kom)	kojim

FEMININE

Singular	Plural
N. koja	koje
G. koje	<i>all other cases the</i>
D. kojoj	<i>same as for masculine</i>
A. koju	<i>plural.</i>
V.	
I. kojom	
L. kojoj	

NEUTER

Singular	Plural
N. koje	koja
G. kog(a)	kojih
D. kom(e)	kojim
A. koje	koja
V. . . . .	. . . . .
I. kojim	kojim
L. kom(e)	kojim

MASCULINE

Čiji—whose

Singular	Plural
N. čiji	čiji
G. čijeg	čijih
D. čijem	čijim
A. čijeg (animate) čiji (inanimate)	čije
V. . . . .	. . . . .
I. čijim	čijim
L. čijem	čijim

Feminine: *The case endings, both in singular and plural, are identical with those for 'koja'.*

Neuter: *The case endings in singular are the same as for 'koje'; however, dative and locative are 'čijem' and accusative is 'čije'. In the plural, the case endings are the same as for 'koja'. 'Nečiji' (somebody's) and 'ničiji' (nobody's) are declined in the same way as 'čiji'—in all genders.*

SENTENCES

Ja sam ovde, a gde si ti? Vi'deo sam ih na fud'balskoj u'takmici. Možeš sve da kažeš njoj, ali njemu nemoj reći ništa. Rekli smo im da dođu s nama na putova'nje. Vama je dobro, a za mene ništa ne pi'tate. Vidim je i znam je, ali ne znam kako se zove. Zar pi'šete njoj —zašto ne njemu? On ju je zvao, ali ona nije htela da dođe. Njen otac ju je po'slao u grad bez no'vaca. On joj se sme'jao u lice. Pro'fesor mi je re'kao da idem s njim u bi'oskop. Imao sam nje'govu knjigu, ali nisam hteo da mu je vratim. Ne ću da mu dam ništa, ni on nije dao ništa meni. Ova soba je i veća i lepša od one. Kad vidiš tog čo'veka, dove'di ga o'vamo! Vaše knjige mi ništa ne sme'taju. Zašto držiš sve te knjige na stolu? Zar s tim glu'panom trošiš vreme? Od'lazite iz moje kuće ovog časa! Možda ja znam više o vama nego što vi sami znate. S kim to razgo'varaš preko telefo'na? To zna svaka buda'la. Kome da kažem da ne ćeš doći u kancela'riju? Čega ste se se'tili? Ljudi koji mnogo go'vore često malo znaju. Koji gospo'din je vaš brat? Čovek s kojim sam do'šao kaže da te pozna. Ni'koga nisam vi'deo u gradu, pa sam se sâm vra'tio. Čija je ovo žena? De'vojka čiju sliku sam vi'deo vrlo je lepa. Ne'čija kola stoje pred mojom kućom celi dan. Ho'dali su po mojoj bašti kao da su u ni'čijoj zemlji.

TRANSLATION

I am here, but where are you? I saw them at the football match. You can tell her everything, but don't tell anything to him. We told them to come with us on the trip. You are all right but you don't ask anything about me. I see her and know her, but I don't know who she is. Are you writing to her—why not to him? He called her but she didn't want to come. Her father sent her to town without money. He laughed to her face. The professor told me to go with him to the cinema. I had his book but did not want to return it to him. I don't want to give him anything, he didn't give me anything either. This room is both larger and nicer than that one. When you see that man bring him here! Your books are not in my way at all. Why do you keep all these books on the table? So you are wasting your time with that fool? Leave my house this moment! Perhaps I know more about you than you yourself know. Whom are you talking to over the telephone? Any fool knows this. To whom shall I say that you are not coming to the office? What have you remembered? People that talk a lot often know very little. Which

gentleman is your brother? The man with whom I came says he knows you. I saw nobody in town so I returned. Whose wife is this? The girl whose picture I saw is very beautiful. Somebody's car has been standing in front of my house all day long. They were walking about my garden as if they were in no-man's land.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

Did you see him or her at the railway station? She was there but he wasn't. I told her you would be tired and could not come. Why did they tell us to come to town? Give me my books and I shall give you yours! Did your friend want to go to Yugoslavia with you or with your wife? Why did you go to the park when you knew we would not be there? The gentleman whose brother is so seriously ill told me he hadn't seen him for many years. He saw her for the first time in the morning and in the afternoon he asked her if she would marry him. Well, had he known her better he would never have asked her. They did see her but I didn't. We saw them because the room was lit up but they were unable to see us since we were standing in the dark outside. Whose car is this? I don't know, it certainly isn't mine. If you leave me now I shall never invite you again. If you don't need the money, give it to me. Give him the money and you'll never see either him or it again.

REFLEXIVE PERSONAL PRONOUN

This is a defective pronoun: it does not possess a nominative or vocative. The other cases are:

- G. **sebe**
- D. **sebi**
- A. **sebe (se)**
- I. **sobom**
- L. **sebi**

Note. In Croatian, the dative case, too, has an enclitic form 'si', a thing disputed—often in a patronizing way—by Serbs.

The forms given above serve both for the singular and plural.

The Reflexive personal pronoun roughly corresponds to the English myself, yourself, himself, ourselves, etc.

It can only refer to the subject of a sentence or clause.

Special attention should be paid to the enclitic form 'se'—the accusative singular—when used in the Perfect tense. The sentence:

He hit himself, should read in translation: 'On se je u'dario'. But in all such cases a special rule applies: the auxiliary 'je' that follows the reflexive 'se' has to be dropped. The correct translation of the above sentence then becomes: 'On se u'dario'. Also: 'Ona se vese'lila' (*She was pleased*) and 'Ono se raz'bilo' (*It got smashed*).

The enclitic 'se' is used with all reflexive verbs—rather numerous in Serbo-Croat—a subject dealt with on page 70.

PREPOSITIONS

Whichever language we happen to be studying, we are always struck by the 'illogical' way it uses prepositions. Selecting the right preposition for the intended meaning, however, is only part of the problem: there still remains the question of the case it governs. One is 'at' home in English, but not 'at' the bathroom. One passes a house (no preposition!), but one is invited to: "look me up whenever you pass by". One talks 'of' old times, one walks 'along' a street or 'about' a town.

All these prepositions cannot be simply translated, nor can it be taken for granted that they will be followed by the same case as in the original language.

Such problems arise, of course, when translating English into Serbo-Croat, and vice versa. To make it easier for you to find your way about, we are listing below the main prepositions, with their nearest English equivalent, grouped according to the cases they govern in Serbo-Croat.

First of all, there is a rule that applies to a substantial group of prepositions—without any exceptions: all *compounded* prepositions govern the genitive—singular or plural, as required by the meaning of the sentence or clause. Use them whenever possible, since no problems of the right case will then arise.

In addition to this—and as you will see from the lists given below—most prepositions govern the genitive anyhow. There are, however, prepositions governing other cases and a number of them govern two or more cases, depending on the meaning of the sentence or phrase.

Now follow lists of prepositions showing the cases they govern, with sentences as examples of their right use. You are strongly urged to read these sentences very carefully and to form more such sentences of your own.

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE GENITIVE

bez without

blizu near, next to

do as far as; until; near; beside

duž along, alongside

iz out of; from
kod at; near; with
kraj alongside; beside; near
mesto instead of, in place of
niže below
od from; since; of
oko around; about
osim except; besides
pored beside, alongside, near; in addition to
posle after
pre before (in time)
preko over, across; more than
protiv against; versus
radi for the sake of; with a view to
suprot opposite
van outside (of)
više above; more than
vrh above (place)
zbog because of; on account of

SENTENCES

- Bez:** Ne mogu da živim bez novca, knjiga i prijatelja (*I cannot live without money, books and friends*); Vidim da moram da idem bez tebe (*I can see that I have to go without you*).
Blizu: Sta'nujem blizu kuće nje'gove sestre (*I live near his sister's house*); Blizu naše škole je reka (*Near our school there is a river*).
Do: Pu'tujem ko'lima do Beo'grada (*I am travelling by car up to Belgrade*); Da li vi to vo'lite ili ne, os'tajem ovde do zime; (*Whether you like it or not, I am staying here until the winter*); Nji'hova bašta je do naše (*Their garden is next to ours*).
Duž: Ako vi i'dete duž reke, ja ću da idem duž že'ljezničke pruge (*If you go along the river, I shall go along the railway line*).
Iz: Kad i'zađete iz kuće, vi'dećete ih na u'lici (*When you go out of the house, you will see them in the street*); Jedva sam se izvu'kao iz nepri'like (*I just managed to extricate myself from the difficulty*).
Kod: Moj muž nije kod kuće, mo'žete da u'dete (*My husband is not in, you can enter*); Bio sam kod naših prijatelja u gradu (*I was at our friend's place in town*).

Kraj: Moj prozor je kraj vaših vrata (*My window is next to your door*); Zar se bo'jite da i'dete kraj mene? (*Are you afraid of walking by my side?*).

Mesto: Mesto vaše knjige doneo sam vam ku'tiju bonbo'na (*Instead of your book I brought you a box of sweets*); Do'šao sam mesto svog brata (*I came in my brother's place*).

Niže: Nji'hova kuća je u istoj ulici niže naše (*Their house is in the same street below ours*).

Od: Pokva'rila su mi se kola pa sam i'šao peške od kraja sela do gara'že (*My car broke down and I walked from the end of the village to the garage*); Od juče nisam jeo ništa (*I haven't had anything to eat since yesterday*); Ne ću da uzmem ništa od njega (*I don't want to take anything from him*).

Oko: Ako ona kaže da će doći oko tri sata, mo'žete je oče'ki'vati oko pet (*If she says she will come at 3 o'clock, you can expect her about five*); Oko njega su mnogi pri'jatelji, što znači da ima mnogo no'vaca (*There are many friends around him which means he has a lot of money*); Oko kuće je bašta, a oko bašte plot (*Round the house there is a garden and round the garden a fence*).

Osim: Ne bojte se, osim mene niko nije čuo ništa! (*Don't be afraid, except for me nobody heard anything*); Na celom svetu nemam ništa osim ovog ku'fera (*In all the world I have nothing but this suitcase*).

Pored: Pored nje niko nije mo'gao da kaže ni reči (*When she started speaking nobody was able to say a word*); Pored moje žene sta'jao je neki meni ne'poznati gospo'din (*Next to my wife a man, unknown to me, was standing*); Pored svake reke obično ima neki blat'njavi put (*Alongside any river there is usually a muddy path*).

Posle: Posle moje sestre do'šao je i njen pri'jatelj (*After my sister her boy friend arrived too*); Posle po'zorišta obično i'demo u ka'f'a'nu (*After the theatre we usually go to a café*); Zar za'ista moraš da spavaš posle ručka? (*Do you really have to sleep after lunch?*).

Pre: Zašto moraš da čitaš no'vine pre mene? (*Why do you have to read the paper before me?*); Da li ćete doći pre ručka? (*Will you come before lunch?*); Pre petka moram da idem (*Before Friday I have to go*).

Preko: Preko ode'la no'sio je laki kaput (*Over his suit he wore a light coat*); Pa'zite kad i'dete preko u'lice! (*Look out when you cross the street*).

Protiv: Zašto uvek go'vorite protiv mojih prijate'lja? (*Why do you always speak against my friends?*); Beo'gradski fud'balski klub danas igra protiv splitskog Hajdu'ka (*The Belgrade football club today plays against the Split 'Hajduk'*).

Radi: Radi vašeg dobra treba da o'stanete kod kuće (*You ought to stay at home for your own good*); Do'shao sam radi onih pla'nova (*I have come on account of those plans*).

Suprot (*archaic*): Sta'jao je suprot mene ali nije re'kao ništa (*He was standing opposite me but said nothing*).

Van: Van naše kuće pro'lazi težak sa'obraćaj (*Heavy traffic passes outside—by—our house*); Hvala bogu, van njega niko ništa ne zna (*Thank God, outside him nobody knows anything*).

Više: Više krova je ro'dino gnezdo (*Above the roof is the stork's nest*); Mo'žete da vi'dite pla'ninsku kuću više vrha (*You can see the mountaineering hut above the summit*).

Vrh (*archaic*): Vrh kuće je krov, a vrh crk'venog tornja krst (*On the top of the house is the roof and on top of the church tower the cross*).

Zbog: Zbog svoje glu'posti izgu'bio je celu imo'vinu (*Because of his stupidity he lost all his fortune*); Do'shao sam samo zbog vas (*I have come only on account of you*).

COMPOUND PREPOSITIONS (GOVERNING GENITIVE)

ispod beneath, below, under
ispred before; in front of
iz'medju between (space or time)
iznad above, over
izvan outside (of)
na'okolo all around
nasred in the middle of
na'suprot opposite; on the contrary
navrh on top of
pokraj beside, next to
u'mesto instead of; in place of

SENTENCES

- Ispod:** Oni sta'nuju ispod nas (*They live below us*); Zar niste znali da je moja soba ispod krova? (*Didn't you know my room was beneath the roof?*); Moja knjiga je ispod stola (*My book is under the table*).
- Ispred:** Ispred mene je se'dela neka de'bela žena, pa nisam mo'gao da vidim ništa (*A fat woman was sitting in front of me and I was unable to see anything*); Ni ja nisam vi'deo ništa, ispred nas je se'dela mlada de'vojka sa vi'sokim šeši'rom (*Neither did I see anything, a young girl was sitting in front of us with a tall hat*).
- Izmedju:** Ne'mojte zabo'raviti da je iz'medju vas i mene ve'lika raz'lika! (*Don't forget there is a great difference between you and me!*); Mo'rate da či'tate iz'medju re'dova (*You must read between the lines*).
- Iznad:** Iznad nas su ob'laci pa ništa ne vi'dimo (*There are clouds over us so we can see nothing*); Le'teo je pola sata iznad grada (*He flew over the town for half an hour*).
- izvan:** Izvan grada život je mnogo interesant'niji (*Outside the town life is much more interesting*); Bili smo vrlo za'dovoljni kad smo na kraju bili izvan šume (*We were very pleased when in the end we were out of the wood*).
- na'okolo:** Svuda na'okolo nas sta'jali su ljudi koje nisam pozna'vao (*All around us people were standing I did not know*); Išao sam na'okolo bašte i na kraju sam na'šao vrata (*I went around the garden and found the door in the end*).
- nasred:** Sta'jao je nasred polja kao neka iz'gubljena ovca (*He was standing in the middle of the field like a lost sheep*). As a matter of fact it is a lost lamb in Serbo-Croat!
- na'suprot:** On sta'nuje na'suprot moje kuće a ipak tvrdi da me ne zna (*He lives opposite my house and yet maintains he doesn't know me*); Kad sam se na kraju na'šao na'suprot nje nisam u'meo da kažem ni reč (*When in the end I found myself facing her I was unable to utter a word*).
- navrh:** Navrh drva je za'stava naše jedi'nice (*On the top of the tree is the flag of our unit*); (Here: Army unit.) Navrh svega toga oče'ki'vao je da ću mu posu'diti svoja kola (*On top of it all he expected me to lend him my car*).
- pokraj:** O'stanite pokraj mene, ne će vam se ništa de'siti! (*Stay by my side, nothing is going to happen to you!*); Mo'gao bih sa'tima da sedim pokraj vas! (*I could sit at your side for hours!*).

u'mesto: Do'šaso sam u'mesto svog oca, jer on je bo'lestan (*I came instead of my father, because he is ill*); Zar ste vi došli u'mesto nje? (*So you came instead of her?*).

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE DATIVE

k (ka): to; towards

na'susret, u'susret: to meet (one)

u'prkos: in spite of

Notes

1. The form 'ka' is obsolescent and is used today only for greater emphasis, if the following word begins with a consonant.
2. The prepositions na'susret, u'susret and u'prkos are compounded of a preposition and a *noun* each (not of two prepositions). The fact that they govern the dative does not, therefore, contradict our rule given on page 106, where we dealt with prepositions compounded of two *prepositions* each.
3. The Croatian version of u'prkos is us'prkos and it governs the genitive.

SENTENCES

k (ka): Pošto vi niste hteli da dođete k meni, ja sam došao k vama (*Since you didn't want to come to me, I came to you*); I'dite ka bregu, o'danle ćete vi'deti doli'nu! (*Go towards the hill, you will see the valley from there*).

na'susret, u'susret: Moram da mu i'zađem na'susret, jer on ne zna gde je naša škola (*I have to go to meet him since he doesn't know where our school is*); Treba da i'zađemo u'susret nje'govoju kćeri, jer je njen otac bio naš is'kreni pri'atelj (*We should meet his daughter halfway, since her father was our sincere friend*).

u'prkos: U'prkos svega što mi je rekla, ja je i dalje volim (*In spite of all she said to me, I still love her*); Pro'fesor je to rekao samo meni u'prkos (*The professor said this only to spite me*).

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE ACCUSATIVE

kroz: through; after (time); within (time)

niz: down; along

uz: up; along; close to

SENTENCES

Kroz: Ako ne dodjem kroz pola sata, ne'mojte me dalje če'kati (*If I don't come within half an hour, don't wait for me any longer*);

Kroz koju go'dinu znaćemo od'govor na sva ova pi'tanja (*In a few years' time we shall know the answer to all these questions*); Nemoj da bacaš novac kroz prozor! (*Don't throw money down the drain!*). The Serbian version is 'throw money out of the window'.

niz: Kako sam i'šao niz ste'penice, otvo'rila je vrata i u'darila me pravo po nosu (*As I was coming down the stairs, she opened the door and hit me right on my nose*); Od tog dana sve je sa mnom išlo niz brdo (*From that day everything went downhill for me*).

uz: Kat'kada je lakše uz breg nego oko brega (*At times it is easier to go up the hill than around it*); Sta'jao je pravo uz mene, ali nisam čuo što je govo'rio (*He was standing right next to me, yet I was unable to hear what he was saying*); Uz ove u'slove ne mo'žemo da za'ključimo po'sao (*Under these conditions we cannot make the deal*).

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE LOCATIVE

pri: by; near; next to

prema: towards; according to

SENTENCES

pri: Pri samom mostu je drvo koje znam još iz de'tinjstva (*Right by the bridge there is a tree I have known ever since my childhood*); O'stajem pri onom što sam re'kao, šta'god se de'silo! (*I'll abide by what I said, whatever happens*).

prema: Prema našem miš'ljenju to je pot'puno ne'moguće (*In our opinion this is totally impossible*); Po'đite prema kući, tamo ćete ih naći! (*Go towards the house, you'll find them there*).

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE GENITIVE OR INSTRUMENTAL

s (sa):

+ gen. from; away from; from off

+ instr. with

SENTENCES

s (sa): + gen. Čak ni sa ove visi'ne ne mogu da vidim ništa (*I can't see anything even from this height*); Ako po'đete s ovog mesta na desno, ne mo'žete da se iz'gubite (*If you turn right from here, you can't get lost*); Sa te strane vidim ceo svet (*From that side I can see the entire world*).

+ instr. Nisam hteo da go'vorim s njom, već s tobom (*I didn't want to talk to her, but to you*); S ovim žal'bama ne ćete po'stići baš ništa (*You will achieve absolutely nothing with these complaints*).

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE ACCUSATIVE OR INSTRUMENTAL

medju: between; among

nad: over, above

pod: under, below

pred: before; in front of

Note. Accusative if the verb means motion; instrumental if it means rest.

SENTENCES

medju: + accus. Ba'cio je novac medju nas kao da smo pro'sjaci (*He threw the money between us as if we were beggars*); Do'shao sam medju vas i želim da o'stanem s vama (*I have come among you and I want to stay with you*).

+ instr. Da li je ta buda'la medju vama? (*Is that fool among you?*); Medju nama nije nikada bilo ni'kakve svadje (*There was never any quarrel between us*).

nad: + accus. Ba'cajte loptu nad njih, a ne u njih! (*Throw the ball above them, not into them!*).

+ instr. Nad nama su le'teli avio'ni, ali nisam znao da li su naši ili ne'prijeteljski (*Aircraft flew above us, but I didn't know whether they were ours or the enemy's*); Nad nama su za'koni i pro'pisi ko'jima mo'ramo da se poko'ravamo (*There are laws and regulations above us that we have to obey*).

pod: + accus. Zavu'kao se pod pokri'vač, pa je spa'vao ceo dan (*He crept under the covers and slept all day*); Ne'mojte da to ba'cate pod sto, gospo'dine, ovo je pri'stojna kuća! (*Don't throw it under the table, sir, this is a decent house!*).

+ instr. Pod ovom vladom znamo šta ho'ćemo i kako da to o'stvarimo (*Under this government we know what we want and how to achieve it*); Pod ovim u'slovima više ne želim da razgo'varam s vama (*Under these conditions I don't want to talk to you any more*).

pred: + accus. Sta'vila je pred mene tanjir sa hranom (*She put a plate with food in front of me*); Ako me izve'du pred sud, kazaću celu is'tinu (*If they take me to court I shall tell the whole truth*).

- + instr. Ni pred sop'stvenim ocem nije poka'zao ni naj'manje pokaja'nja (*He didn't show the least repentance even in front of his own father*); Pred za'konom smo svi jed'naki (*We are all equal in front of the law*).

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE ACCUSATIVE OR LOCATIVE

na: on, upon; at

o: onto, on, against, about

po: for (to fetch somebody or something); about, on

SENTENCES

- na:** + accus. Nemoj da sedneš na nje'govu sto'licu! (*Don't sit on his chair!*); Ne po'lažem ni'kakvo pravo na tebe (*I make no claims on you*).
- + loc. Na ovom stolu leže sve naše slike (*All our pictures are lying on this table*); Na tim li'vadama smo pro'veli mnogo lepih dana (*We have spent many a beautiful day on these lawns*).
- o:** + accus. Molim vas, o'besite sliku o ovaj klin (*Hang the picture on this nail, please*); U'dariće glavom o zid (*He will bang his head against the wall*).
- + loc. Razgova'rali smo celo večē o že'nama (*We spoke all evening of women*); Nešta visi o zidu, ali ne znam šta je to (*Something is hanging on the wall, but I don't know what it is*).

PREPOSITIONS GOVERNING THE GENITIVE, ACCUSATIVE OR INSTRUMENTAL

za: + genitive: during a period of time

+ accusative: behind, at, by, on (motion)

+ instrumental: behind

SENTENCES

- za:** + gen. Za našeg starog kralja narod je ra'dio više, ali je ži'veo bolje (*Under our old king, people worked harder but they lived better*); Za mog oca nisam mo'rao da brinem ni za šta (*In my father's time I didn't have to worry about anything*).
- + accus. Ba'cio sam sliku za kuću, pa niko ne će znati gde je (*I have thrown the picture behind the house and nobody will know where it is*); Prile'pio se za mene kao či'čak pa sad ne mogu da ga se rešim (*He sticks to me like a thistle and I can't get rid of him*).

- + instr. Sedi za vra'tima i ne će da se makne (*He is sitting behind the door and will not budge*); Po'đite napred, a ja ću polagano za vama (*Go ahead and I shall follow you slowly*).

PREPOSITION GOVERNING GENITIVE, ACCUSATIVE OR LOCATIVE

- u:** + genitive: meaning possession
 + accusative: to, into; at (time)
 + locative: in (place, locality)

SENTENCES

- u:** + gen. U'krao mi je kufer, ali ključ je u mene (*He has stolen my suitcase but I have got the key*); Da je u tebe samo malo pa'meti, ne bi tako govo'rio (*If you had but a grain of sense you would not be talking like that*).
- + accus. Idem u grad, pa neka se desi šta mora da se desi! (*I am off to town and let happen what is bound to happen!*); Zar baš uvek moraš u tu pr'ljavu kafa'nu? (*Must you really always go to that dirty café?*); Ne bojte se, biću tamo u veče! (*Don't worry, I'll be there in the evening!*).
- + loc. U tom do'sadnom društvu mo'raću da prove'dem celo leto (*I'll have to spend all summer in that tedious company*); Ti si naj'lepša od svih de'vojaka u našoj u'lici (*You are the prettiest of all the girls in our street*).

CONJUNCTIONS

Here is a list of conjunctions, with their meanings and sentences showing how to use them.

a: and *or* but (see Note below).

Ja sam ovde a ti si tamo (*I am here and you are there*); Gospo'din čita knjigu a gos'pođa pije kafu (*The gentleman is reading a book and the lady is drinking coffee*).

ako: if.

Ako i'mate vre'mena, do'dite sutra u grad (*If you have time come to town tomorrow*); Ako bi vi išli u po'zorište i'šao bih i ja (*If you were going to the theatre I'd go too*).

ali: but (see Note below).

Svaki dan ide u kancela'riju, ali ne radi ništa (*He goes to the office every day, but he doesn't work at all*).

čas—čas: now—now.

Čas je ovde čas ga nema (*One moment he is here and the next he's gone*).

čim: as soon as.

Čim dođem ja'viću se (*I'll report as soon as I arrive*).

da: that; if.

1. In subordinate clauses (where it cannot be omitted as it normally is in English): Svi znamo da ste bo'gati (*We all know you are rich*).

2. Denoting intention, purpose: Do'šao sam da vidim da li ste kod kuće (*I came to see whether you were at home*).

3. 'If' in so-called unreal conditional sentences: Da imam no'vaca ne bih ra'dio kao rob (*If I had money I would not be working like a slave*).

4. 'Da' followed by the present tense is often used instead of the infinitive: Ne volim da živim u gradu (*I don't like to live in town*).

dakle: consequently, so.

Kasno je, dakle mo'ramo da i'demo kući (*It's late so we have to go home*).

da li: the normal introduction to a question; also: whether.

Da li je ovo vaš brat? (*Is this your brother?*); Ne znam da li da

idem u Jugo'slaviju sa ovom de'vojkom ili sa onom (*I don't know whether to go to Yugoslavia with this girl or with that*).

dok: while.

Dok vi či'tate, mi ćemo gle'dati kroz prozor (*While you read we'll look out of the window*).

dok ne: until.

Če'kaćemo dok ne dođe (*We'll wait until he comes*).

i: and (see Note below).

Celog dana samo jede i pije (*All day long he only eats and drinks*).

i—i: both—and.

I ja i moj brat i'demo u London (*Both I and my brother are going to London*).

i'ako: although.

I'ako je Francuz, go'vori od'lično en'gleski (*Although he is a Frenchman, he speaks excellent English*).

ili: or.

Danas idem u park ili u šumu (*I'm going today to the park or to the wood*).

Ili—ili: either—or.

Ili je Englez ili Francuz, ali si'gurno nije Jugoslo'ven (*He's either an Englishman or a Frenchman, but he certainly is no Yugoslav*).

Ipak: but, however.

U'moran sam, ipak idem u grad (*I'm tired, but I'm going to town*); Spa'vao sam, ali sam ipak čuo kada ste ušli (*I was sleeping; however, I heard when you entered*).

jer: because, since.

Idem prosto jer hoću da idem (*I'm going simply because I want to go*); O'tišli smo jer smo znali da je kasno (*We left since we knew it was late*).

kad: when.

Kad sam gladan ne mogu da radim (*I can't work when I am hungry*).

kao da: as if.

Go'vori kao da zna sve na svetu (*He speaks as if he knew everything in the world*).

mada: same as 'iako' or 'premda'.

nego: but (after a negative statement).

Nisam bio u Beo'gradu nego sam bio u Za'grebu (*I wasn't in Belgrade but I was in Zagreb*).

ni: not even.

Ne bi dao di'nara ni sopstvenom bratu (*He wouldn't give a dinar even to his own brother*).

ni—ni: neither—nor (governing all words except verbs).

Nemam ni vre'mena ni no'vaca za takve glu'posti (*I have neither time nor money for such silly things*).

niti—niti: neither—nor (governing verbs only).

Niti sam ga vi'deo niti želim da ga vidim (*Neither have I seen him nor do I want to see him*).

otkad or ot'kako: ever since.

Otkad (or ot'kako) je vi'deo tu de'vojku go'vori samo o njenoj lepo'ti (*Ever since he saw that girl he only talks about her beauty*).

pa: and so.

On je tvoj muž pa treba da ga slušaš (*He is your husband and so you have to obey him*).

pošto: since (causal).

Pošto si me po'zvao ti moraš da platiš ve'čeru (*Since you invited me you have to pay for the dinner*).

pre nego što: before (in time).

Pre nego što po'demo na put moram da iz'vadim no'vaca iz banke (*Before we set out on our journey I have to take some money from the bank*).

premda: although (same as i'ako and mada).

što: that (after verbs expressing feeling, pleasure, resentment).

Milo mi je što ste došli (*I'm pleased you came*).

već: but (same as 'nego', to be used after negative statements only).

Nisam ništa re'kao njemu već sam sve re'kao njoj (*I didn't tell anything to him, but I told her everything*).

zar: interrogative particle for questions with special stress.

Zar ništa niste čuli o Napoleo'nu? (*Did you not hear anything about Napoleon?*).

zato što: because (similar to jer and pošto).

Ne ću da ih po'setim zato što za'ista mrzim tu ženu (*I don't want to visit them because I really hate that woman*).

Notes about the use of 'i', 'a' and 'ali'.

1. Use 'i' when in English you can use only 'and'. Vidim pro'fesora i đaka (*I see the professor and the student*).
2. Use 'a' when in English you can use either 'and' or 'but'. Konj je

na u'lici a pas je u kući (*The horse is in the street and—or but—the dog is in the house*).

3. Use 'ali' when in English you can use only 'but'. Nje'gova prijate'ljica jest ružna, ali je bo'gata (*His girl friend certainly is ugly but she is rich*).

NUMERALS

The numerals mostly used in Serbo-Croatian belong to the same categories as those normally used in English: cardinals (glavni brojevi) and ordinals (redni brojevi). Other categories of numerals exist in Serbo-Croat although one can almost always avoid using them.

CARDINAL NUMERALS

1 jedan, jedna, jedno	40 četrde'set
2 dva, dve, dva	50 pede'set
3 tri	60 šezde'set
4 če'tiri	70 sedamde'set
5 pet	80 osamde'set
6 šest	90 devede'set
7 sedam	100 sto (sto'tina)
8 osam	200 dvesto (dve sto'tine)
9 devet	300 tristo (tri sto'tine)
10 deset	400 če'tiri sto (če'tiri sto'tine)
11 jeda'naest	500 pet sto'tina
12 dva'naest	600 šest sto'tina
13 tri'naest	700 sedam sto'tina
14 četr'naest	800 osam sto'tina
15 pet'naest	900 devet sto'tina
16 šes'naest	1,000 hi'ljadu (ti'suču)
17 sedam'naest	2,000 dve hi'ljade (ti'suće)
18 osam'naest	3,000 tri hi'ljade
19 devet'naest	4,000 če'tiri hi'ljade
20 dva'deset	5,000 pet hi'ljada
21 dva'deset i jedan (jedna, jedno)	6,000 šest hi'ljada
22 dva'dest i dva (dve, dva)	10,000 deset hi'ljada
24 dva'deset i četiri	50,000 pede'set hi'ljada
25 dva'deset i pet	100,000 sto hi'ljada
30 tri'deset	150,000 sto pede'set hi'ljada
31 tri'deset i jedan (jedna, jedno)	200,000 dvesto hi'ljada
	1,000,000 mili'on
	2,000,000 dva milio'na

Notes

- 1(a) The numerals 2, 3, and 4—if they stand on their own or form the last digit of a composite number—govern the genitive singular. Dva čo'veka, tri žene, če'tiri vesla; or tri'deset i dva čo'veka, tristo sedamde'set i dve žene.
- (b) These numerals also govern the genitive singular of the *indefinite* adjective. Dva dobra čo'veka; tri mlade žene; če'tiri jaka vesla.
2. From 5 upwards numerals govern the genitive plural. Pet ljudi, šest žena, deset ve'sala.
3. 'Sto' is a numeral, sto'tina a noun. From 100 to 300 you can use either: sto or sto'tinu; dvesta or dve sto'tine; trista or tri sto'tine. From there on you have to use the noun only. Če'tiri sto'tine, pet sto'tina—although you will hear even Yugoslavs saying, incorrectly, pet sto, šest sto, etc.
4. In the numerals 200, 300, and 400 the word 'sto'tina' is in the genitive singular (see above rule under 1a), but from 500 onwards it is in genitive plural. Pet sto'tina, sedam sto'tina, etc. This rule also applies to 'hi'ljada'. Hence: dve hi'ljade, tri hi'ljade and če'tiri hi'ljade; but pet hi'ljada, šest hi'ljada, etc. And of course these rules equally apply to the Croatian version: dvije ti'suće, tri ti'suće, but pet ti'suća, šest ti'suća, etc.
5. When 'one thousand' is used either on its own or as part of a composite number, it is always in the accusative singular—whether you translate it with 'hi'ljadu' or with 'ti'suću' (Croatian). Hi'ljadu ljudi je u parku—a thousand people are in the park. In this case 'hi'ljadu' is the subject. Vidim hi'ljadu ljudi u parku—I see a thousand people in the park. Here 'hi'ljadu' is part of the object. Also: Bio sam u selu sa hi'ljadu ljudi—I was in the village with a thousand people. The preposition 'sa' actually governs the instrumental, but here we still have to use 'hi'ljadu' in the accusative according to the above rule. Hi'ljadu i pet stotina ljudi je u gradu. (*A thousand and five hundred people are in town*).

NUMERALS ONE, TWO AND THREE

The numeral 'one' (jedan, jedna, jedno) behaves—and is treated—in all respects as a definite adjective. It has three genders and they are

declined in the same way as are definite adjectives of corresponding gender.

The numeral 'two' (dva, dve, dva) also has three genders. Its declension is given further down.

The numerals 'one' and 'two' always have to agree with their noun (and adjective, pronoun, etc.) in gender, number, and case.

'Jedan' even has a grammatical plural, whose use corresponds to the use of the English 'the ones' (often in comparisons). Jedni kod kuće pišu, drugi čitaju (*The ones at home write, the others read*).

If a composite number ends in 'one', this final digit has to comply with the above given rules. This means that the final digit (but not the preceding ones) will have to agree in gender, number, and case with the noun it belongs to. But it also means that the noun governed by it will have to be in singular, not plural. Dva'deset i jedan vojnik je na u'lici (*Twenty-one soldiers are in the street*); Vidim dva'deset i jednog vojni'ka u šumi (*I see twenty-one soldiers in the forest*); Bio sam u selu sa tri'deset i jednim u'čiteljem (*I was in the village with thirty-one teachers*).

The numeral 'two' also has three genders: dva, dve, dva. (Note that dva is masculine and neuter—not feminine as you would expect since its ending is -a). It, too, has to agree with its noun in gender, number, and case, although that part of the statement will be qualified in a moment.

Numerals from three (tri) upwards have no genders.

The numerals 2, 3, and 4 can be declined although their declension is avoided to an ever increasing degree.

DECLENSION OF NUMERALS

Jedan, jedna, jedno—one

MASCULINE

Singular	Plural
N. Jedan	jedni
G. jed'nog(a)	jednih
D. jed'nom(e)	jednim
A. jednog (animate) jedan (inanimate)	jedne
V. jedan	jedni
I. jednim	jednim
L. jednom	jednim

FEMININE

Singular	Plural
N. jedna	jedne
G. jedne	jednih
D. jednoj	jednim
A. jednu	jedne
V. jedna	jedne
I. jednom	jednim
L. jednoj	jednim

NEUTER

Singular	Plural
N. jedno	jedna
G. jednog	jednih
D. jednom	jednim
A. jedno	jedna
V. jedno	jedna
I. jednim	jednim
L. jednom	jednim

Notes

1. The plural of jedan is used in two senses:

- (a) When comparing one group of animate or inanimate subjects or objects with another: Jedni u sobi go'vore a drugi slu'šaju (*The ones in the room speak and the others listen*); Jedne kuće su viso'ke, a druge su niske (*Some of the houses are tall and the others are low*); Jedne knjige volim da čitam a druge ne volim (*One kind of books I like to read while I don't like the other kind of them*). We had to anticipate here and use, in all these examples, the ordinal number 'drugi' for second; for it so happens that—in such sentences—you juxtapose: the ones—the “second” ones.
- (b) When belonging to nouns appearing—or normally used—in pairs or couples or in plural only: Imam jedne ci'pele i jedne ruka'vice (*I have one pair of shoes and one pair of gloves*); U celom stanu imam samo jedna vrata (*In my entire flat I have only one door*).

Dva — <i>two</i> (m. and n.)		dve (fem.)
N.	dva	dve
G.	dvaju	dveju
D.	dvama	dvema
A.	dva	dve
V.	dva	dve
I.	dvama	dvema
L.	dvama	dvema
Tri (m., f., n.)		Če'tiri (m., f., n.)
N.	tri	če'tiri
G.	triju	če'tiriju
D.	trima	če'tirima
A.	tri	če'tiri
V.	tri	če'tiri
I.	trima	če'tirima
L.	trima	če'tirima

ORDINAL NUMERALS

From the list given below you will see that the first four ordinal numbers differ fundamentally from their corresponding cardinal numerals. From 'five' on, ordinals are formed from cardinals by adding -i, -a, and -o respectively, for the three genders.

There are slight alterations or adaptations in certain cases. In the case of 'sedam' and 'osam', the movable 'a' is dropped from their final syllable: sedmi, sedma, sedmo and osmi, osma, osmo. Also, the one hundredth is stoti, stota, stoto; and for multiples of one hundredth only 'sto' can be used—and not sto'tina—thus forming: dve'stoti, tri'stoti, etc. The ordinal one thousandth is hi'ljaditi.

prvi, a, o first	jeda'naesti eleventh
drugi, a, o second	dva'naesti
treći	tri'naesti
čet'vrti	čet'naesti
peti	pet'naesti
šesti	šes'naesti
sedmi	sedam'naesti
osmi	osam'naesti
de'veti	devet'naesti
de'seti	dva'deseti

tri'deseti thirtieth	hi'ljaditi one thousandth
četride'seti	hi'ljadu i prvi
etc.	sto hi'ljaditi one hundred
stoti one hundredth	thousandth
sto prvi	milion'ti
sto drugi	

Here are a few rules about ordinal numbers:

1. All ordinals are treated—and they behave—in all respects as if they were definite adjectives.
2. They all have three genders.
3. They have to agree in gender, number, and case with the pronoun, adjective, and noun they belong to.
4. Drugi, druga, drugo, in addition to 'the second', also means 'the other'; also 'other' and 'else'.

SENTENCES

Jedan čovek je na u'lici a dve žene su u bašti. Tri selja'ka rade na po'ljima. Danas pu'tujem u grad sa trista dina'ra u džepu, ali sutra ću i'mati naj'manje pet sto'tina. Hi'ljadu dvesta novih dina'ra je mnogo no'vaca! Ni dve sto'tine vojni'ka ne mogu da se bore protiv tri žene. Ovo je kon'certna dvora'na za pet hi'ljada slušala'ca. Jedan čovek je u u'redu, dve žene su u dvo'rištu, a jedno dete je na u'lici. Pu'tovao sam sa dva selja'ka i tri de'vojke. Za dve funte možeš da do'biješ vrlo pri'stojan ručak. Ako vi do'dete u deset sati, ja ću doći oko dva'naest. Dobro znam prvog gospo'dina, ali drugog u'opšte ne znam. Već me peti put pi'tate kako se zovem! Kada stig'nete do treće u'lice, skre'nite na desno! Na čtrde'setoj stra'nici knjige ima lepa fotogra'fija. Ovo je već čet'vrto selo u kojem nisam mo'gao da kupim benzi'na. U onoj trećoj kući živi moj pro'fesor. Jednom rukom drži hleb a drugom ga reže. Zasad ne mogu da vam kažem ništa drugo. Od'lazim u druge zemlje, jer ovde ne mogu da živim. Ka'žite to dru'gima, ali ne meni! U našem gradu se danas ro'dio milion'ti sta'novnik.

TRANSLATION

One man is in the street and two women are in the garden. Three peasants work in the fields. I'm going to town today with three hundred dinars in my pocket, but tomorrow I shall have five hundred at least. One thousand and two hundred new dinars is a lot of

money! Not even two hundred soldiers can fight against three women. This is a concert hall for five thousand listeners. One man is in the office, two women are in the courtyard and a child is in the street. I travelled with two peasants and three girls. For two pounds you can get a very decent lunch. If you come at 10 o'clock, I shall come at about twelve. I know the first gentleman well, but the second I don't know at all. You have asked me for the fifth time already what my name is! When you reach the third street, turn right! There is a nice photograph on the fortieth page of the book. This is the fourth village up to now where I haven't been able to buy petrol. My professor lives in that third house. With one hand he is holding the bread and with the other he is cutting it. I cannot tell you anything else for the moment. I am going to other countries since I am unable to live here. Tell this to other people but not to me! The one millionth inhabitant was born in our town today.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

If you give me a hundred dinars now, I shall repay you one hundred and fifty in three months' (time). Why can't you come to the office before 10 o'clock? I (can) only see one man, where is the other? There were three hundred people at least at the station when the two famous actresses arrived. You can't go to two films in the course of one afternoon! The second man in the first row is our director. Can't you ever talk about anything else but women? I stopped reading the book before I reached the tenth page. One hand doesn't know what the other is doing. I have told you a thousand times not to ring me before 10 in the morning or after 10 in the evening. He was there with two women; one I know is his wife and the other, I think, is his girl friend. Why don't you go to the park with the other boys? I spent my holiday with two friends, but we left our wives at home. Who would dare to spend two weeks with three women?

'FEMALE' NUMERALS

'Female' numerals are so called because their ending *-ica* is the normal ending of female nouns. But it so happens that these numerals can be used only for groups or numbers of *male* persons—and even then only if no noun is used.

Dvo'jica
tro'jica
četvo'rica

peto'rica
šesto'rica
sedmo'rica

osmo'rica
deveto'rica
deseto'rica
jedanaesto'rica
dvanaesto'rica
dvadeseto'rica

dvadesetidvo'jica
trideseto'rica
sedamdeseto'rica
osamdeseto'rica
devedeseto'rica
devedesetideveto'rica

Dvo'jica su u kući a tro'jica u bio'skopu (*Two men are at home and three in the cinema*); I'demo sva tro'jica! (*Let's go all three of us!*); Ko su ona tro'jica? (*Who are those three men?*); Hoću da nešto kažem onoj dvadeseto'rici (*I want to say something to those twenty men*); Hoću da idem na putova'nje sa dvo'jicom, ali ne sa trideseto'ricom (*I want to go on a journey with two men, but not with thirty*); Zar ne misliš da su ona dvo'jica bila pi'jana? (*Don't you think those two men were drunk?*).

Notes

1. As you will have noticed in the last sentence above, the past participle in the perfect tense (as also in the conditional) is in neuter plural.
2. You will find Yugoslavs quite often using these numerals together with nouns, which is not grammatically correct. Instead of saying: 'Tri vojni'ka su na u'lici', people will say 'Tro'jica vojni'ka su na u'lici' (*Three soldiers are in the street*).

COLLECTIVE NUMERALS

Only the neuter gender exists in the singular, while the plural has all three genders.

Singular	Plural		
Neuter	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.
dvoje	dvoji	dvoje	dvoja
troje	troji	troje	troja
čet'voro	čet'vori	čet'vore	čet'vora
pe'toro	pe'tori	pe'tore	pe'tora
šes'toro	šes'tori	šes'tore	šes'tora
sed'moro	sed'mori	sed'more	sed'mora
os'moro	os'mori	os'more	os'mora
de'vetoro	de'vetori	de'vetore	de'vetora
de'setoro	de'setori	de'setore	de'setora

Note. You will probably come across the forms čet'vero, pe'tero, etc. Don't use them, they are 'provincialisms'.

The neuter singular of these numerals is used for groups or numbers of human beings of different sexes; the collective noun governed by such numerals will be in genitive. Such sentences often use a personal pronoun without any noun: 'Imam čet'voro dece' (*I have four children*—and this implies that they are boys and girls). 'Mislim da nas je tamo bilo pe'toro ili šes'toro' (*I think there were five or six of us*—and again of both sexes).

In the plural these numerals are used mostly, although not exclusively, for animals normally appearing in pairs or teams, or else for nouns appearing in plural only. 'Dvoji konji' (*Two pairs of horses*); troji vo'lovi (*three teams of oxen*). Troje no'vine (*three newspapers*); dvoje ma'kaze (*two pairs of scissors*), troja, čet'vora kola (*three, four cars*).

SENTENCES

Ova žena ima troje dece, a iz'gleda kao mlada de'vojka. Kako da idem u po'zorište, kad moram da pazim na svoje četvoro dece? Za ovaj posao su po'trebni troji konji ili pe'tori vo'lovi. (But you can put this in another way: Za ovaj posao su potrebna tri para konja ili pet pari vo'lova.) Imam u kući čet'vore ma'kaze, ali ne mogu da nadjem ni jedne. Nemam mesta u gara'ži za troja kola, ali imam za dvojica. Svakog dana čita troje no'vine.

TRANSLATION

This woman has three children, yet she looks like a young girl. How can I go to the theatre, when I have to look after my four children? For this work, you have to use three pairs of horses or five teams of oxen. I have four pairs of scissors in the house but I can't find even one. I haven't room for three cars in the garage, but I have room for two. He reads three newspapers every day.

TRANSLATE INTO SERBO-CROATIAN

How many doors do you have in your house? I have two doors, but one of them is always locked. Why do you have two pairs of horses when you have only one cart? We have three newspapers in our town, but not one of them said a word this morning about an

important world event. May I visit you tomorrow with my three children?

DISTRIBUTIVE NUMERALS

The sentence: 'He gave us two books each' is translated with 'Dao nam je svakom **po** dve knjige'. 'Svakog jutra jedem **po** dve ja'buke i **po** tri kruške' (Each morning I eat two apples and three pears).

'Once, twice, three times', etc., is translated with the help of 'put' or 'puta'. 'Once' is 'jedan put'. From there on you have the choice of using either 'put' added to the cardinal number as its ending, or else 'puta' following the cardinal numeral as a separate word. Dvaput or dva puta; triput or tri puta; de'setput or deset puta; stoput or sto puta.

FRACTIONS

These are: polo'vina, treći'na, četvrti'na, peti'na, šesti'na, deseti'na, etc. As you will notice, with the exception of 'polo'vina', all the other words are formed simply from the ordinal numerals with an added 'na'.

DAYS, MONTHS, SEASONS, ETC.

The days of the week are:

Pone'deljak	Monday
u'torak	Tuesday
sreda	Wednesday
četvr'tak	Thursday
petak	Friday
su'bota	Saturday
ne'delja	Sunday

Notes

1. One normally enumerates the days of the week in Serbo-Croat beginning with Monday.
2. The days of the week are not spelt with capitals.

For expressions like 'on Monday, on Friday' one uses 'u pone'-deljak, u petak'—with the name of the day in the accusative singular. But if speaking of events taking place regularly on certain days, no preposition is used and the noun is in the instrumental singular. 'Imam ča'sove eng'leskog je'zika u'torkom i petkom' (*I have my English lessons on Tuesdays and Fridays*).

The seasons of the year are:

pro'leće	spring
leto	summer
ješen	autumn (fem. gender!)
zima	winter

In temporal phrases these nouns are used in the locative singular and they are introduced with 'u': 'U pro'leću, vreme je o'bično promen'ljivo' (*In spring, weather is usually changeable*).

But if introduced by adjectives such as 'prošli' (*past*), na'redni or bu'dući (*next*), then the phrase is in the genitive singular: 'Prošle zime bio sam u Švaj'carskoj, a na'rednog leta pu'tujem u Jugo'slaviju' (*Last winter I was in Switzerland and next summer I am going to Yugoslavia*).

The names of the months used in Serbian are virtually the same as in English. They are also used in Croatia; but their old Croatian equivalents are still used to a certain extent and are given below. It is, however, important to note that months are not spelt with capitals.

ja'nuar	sije'čanj	jul	srpanj
feb'ruar	ve'ljača	avgust	ko'lovoz
mart	o'žujak	sep'tembar	rujan
april	travanj	ok'tobar	lis'topad
maj	svibanj	no'vembar	stu'deni
jun	lipanj	de'cembar	pro'sinac

We now have all the elements necessary for a full dateline. We can say 'Danas je u'torak, pet'naesti maj, hi'ljadu devet sto'tina šezde'set i de'vete go'dine' (*Today is Tuesday, 16th May, 1969*). Or: 'Do'putovao je u sredu, šestog no'vembra hi'ljadu devet sto'tina šezde'set pete go'dine' (*He arrived on Wednesday, 16th November, 1965*).

When it comes to telling the time of the day, you will find slight differences between Serbian and Croatian. But we shall confine ourselves to giving here the Serbian version only, since it will be readily understood everywhere in the country.

The question 'What time is it?' is translated 'Ko'liko je sati?' and the answer normally begins with 'Sada je . . .' (*It is now . . .*). Now follow specimen answers for the time between 2 and 3 o'clock.

Sada je 2 (dva) sata i pet (minu'ta)	five past two
2 sata i deset (minu'ta)	ten past two
2 sata i četvrt	quarter past two
2 sata i dva' deset (minu'ta)	twenty past two
2 sata i po—or pola tri	half past two
25 (minu'ta) do tri	twenty-five to three
četvrt do tri	quarter to three
10 (minu'ta) do tri	ten to three
3 sata	three o'clock

Notes

1. In all cases, the word 'sat' or 'sata' can be replaced by 'čas' and 'časa').
2. For 5 or over, 'sata' becomes 'sati' and 'časa' becomes 'ča'sova'.

In Yugoslavia today, time tables (say of railways) are given from 0 to 24 hours. But privately people still use the old system from 0 to 12, with the addition 'pre podne' (morning) and 'popod'ne' or 'uveče' for late afternoon or evening. You will, therefore, say: 'Moj voz polazi u 16 sati i četvrt'. But you would date a girl for 'osam sati u'veče'.

Note. People in villages normally get up very early indeed. They will hardly ever use the word 'jutro' for the time after, say, 7 a.m. The rest of the morning they call 'prepod'ne'. Even in towns, 'jutro' is normally not used after 9 or 10 a.m. In a village you would say: U'stao sam u pet sati i o'tišao na polje (*I got up at 5 o'clock and went to the field*). But: Činov'nik je do'šao u devet sati pre podne (*The civil servant came at 9 before noon*). And in a town one says: Do'lazim u ured u 9 u'jutru (*I come to the office at 9 in the morning*).

INTERJECTIONS, WARNINGS, ETC.

Bo'gami seriously, really	idi! go away!
Bože moj! My God! Good Lord!	izvi'nite! excuse me!
čekaj (če'kajte)! wait!	jao! oh, dear!
ćuti(te)! shut up!	jelte? isn't that so?
dabog'me } certainly, of course	opros'tite! excuse me! forgive me!
dabo'me }	
dobro došli! welcome!	pazi (pa'zite)! look out!
e pa well then	pažnja! warning!
ej (or hej)! I say!	pola'ko! take your time!
eno! there you are!	si'gurno surely
eto! there you are!	slo'bodno! come in!
evo! here you are!	stoj! stop!
gle! look!	zdravo! hallo!
fala (or hvala) thanks	ži'veo! long live!
hvala Bogu! thank God!	žuri! hurry up!
hajde! come on!	

SENTENCES

O'stao bih vrlo rado, ali bo'gami moram da idem. Bože moj, zar je vaš brat oz'biljno bolestan? Čekaj, buda'lo, sve to još može da se pro'meni! Ću'tite, molim vas, ne želim da čujem ni reči o tom! Ti si, dabo'me, opet zabo'ravio da done'seš novac! Dobro došli, dru'govi; o'sećajte se kao kod kuće! E pa sad znam da moram da platim račun. Hej, to je pravo iznenađe'nje! Eno, oni su već ovde, a mi smo opet pos'lednji! Eto tamo je, zar ga za'ista ne vidiš? Evo svih vaših pi'sama i nadam se da ćete zabo'raviti da smo i'kada bili pri'jatelji! Gle ko je ovde! Jesi ga ti po'zvala! Hvala, ali ja već dva dana u'opšte ne pušim. Hvala bogu što ste stigli, već sam se ozbiljno za'brinula za vas! Hajde da vidiš ko je do'šao! Idi o'davle, nemam vremena za takve glu'posti! Izvi'nite gospo'dine, da li je ova sto'lica slobodna? Jao, što da u'radim sada bez para i prijate'lja? Jelte, zar to nije tačno? Opro's'tite gos'pođice, sasvim sam zabo'ravio da vam done'sem o'bećani dar! Pazi, sad će po'četi da priča pa sa'tima ne će pre'stati! Pola'ko, pri'jatelju, i'mamo vre'mena i para koli'ko nam treba! Pažnja! Ova vrata treba da o'stanu za'tvorena! Si'gurno i sam znaš da od sveg toga ni reč nije is'tinita! Slo'bodno u'đite!

Stoj, ni ko'raka dalje! Zdravo, kako si? Ži'veo, stari družē! Žuri, i'nače ćemo zadoc'niti na voz!

TRANSLATION

I'd like to stay on, but really I must go. Good God, is your brother seriously ill? Wait, you fool, all this may still change! Keep quiet, please, I don't want to hear another word! You forgot again, of course, to bring the money. Welcome, comrades, please feel quite at home! Well then, now I know that I have to foot the bill. I say, this is a real surprise! There you are, they are here already and we are again the last to arrive! There he is, can't you see him? Here are all your letters and I hope you'll forget we were ever friends! Just look who is here! Have you invited him? Thank you, but I have not been smoking for two days already. Thank God you've arrived, I seriously began to worry about you! Come and see who has arrived! Go away, I have no time for such nonsense! Excuse me, sir, is this seat free? Oh dear, what shall I do now without friends or money? Just tell me, isn't that correct? Excuse me, miss, I completely forgot to bring you the present I had promised you. Look out, he'll start talking now and will not finish for hours on end! Take your time, friend, we have all the time and money we need! Warning! This door is to be kept closed! Surely you know that of all this not a word is true! Come in! Stop, not a step further! Hallo, how are you? Long live our old friend! Hurry up, or else we shall be late for our train!

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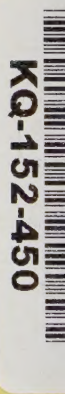
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